

THE PROJECT

Both the quality and quantity of the existing science and math space at Fitchburg State College are lacking. The College plans to improve this condition by building entirely new space for Biology and Chemistry and renovating the existing science building.

CHALLENGE

Biology/Chemistry and Geo/Physical Sciences are the disciplines that were chosen to be included in the new complex because of their potential for interdisciplinary collaboration. At the outset of the study, 23,600 net assignable square feet (NASF) were assigned to these departments. The challenge was to program an amount of space that would support current and future programs, while being within acceptable parameters for the College.

SOLUTION

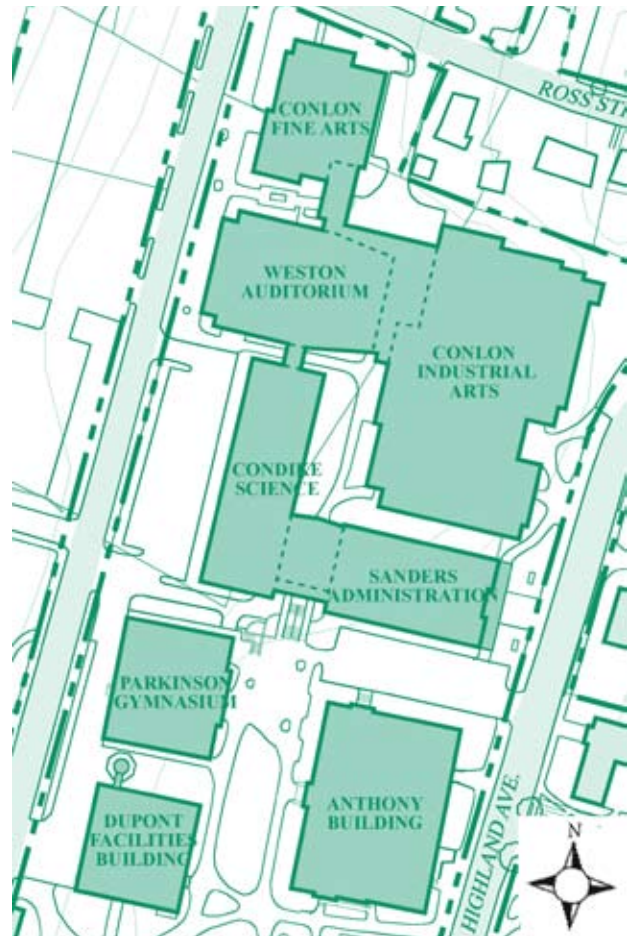
Through a participatory process, a facility program was developed representing an 78 percent increase in space. The desired amount was compared to normative standards, the DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) comparative database, and to the amount of similar space at peer institutions, based on space per full-time equivalent faculty. Using these benchmarks, the projected amount of space was right-sized for Fitchburg State. Possible locations for the new construction included several options for adding to Condiike Science or replacing an existing building to the south with all new space.

The entrance to the building complex will be through an atrium. This will be prominent space designed and furnished to encourage collegial interaction between students and between students and faculty, creating an inviting and lively atmosphere. The classroom and laboratory facilities will be flexible to accommodate various styles of teaching. Student involvement in research will increase with the availability of dedicated research labs for students and faculty to work together. There will also be space for group learning and student projects, both integral parts of Fitchburg's teaching environment.

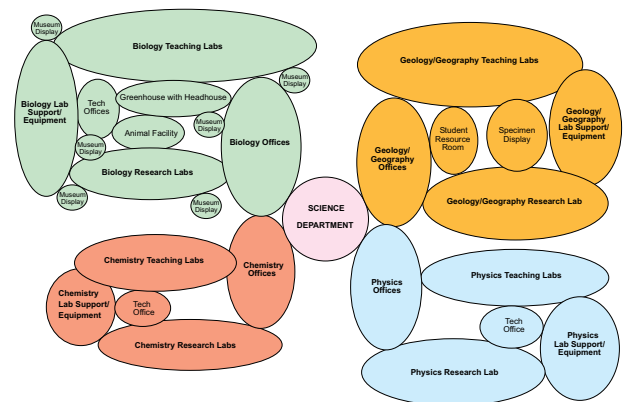
RESULTS

The College is studying the possible locations for the project, and what the implications are for each of the alternatives.

*Project completed under previous name: Dober, Lidsky, Craig and Associates, Inc.



SCIENCES SITE



SCIENCES ADJACENCY DIAGRAM

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