

Community College of Allegheny County

Educational Space Master Plan

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Project Information

Completion Date
December 2017

Services Provided
Master Plan/Optimization
Instructional Space Utilization
Strategic Program Alignment

Rickes Associates worked closely with the four campuses and West Hills Center to determine the functional types and amount of space each site needed, aligned with the highest and best use related to campus location and programmatic need.

The Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) consists of four campuses and numerous centers, each serving a different population of the Allegheny area. This study focused on Allegheny, Boyce, North and South Campus, as well as the West Hills Center (trades, automotive, mechatronics, workforce development). These sites encompassed 785,000 ASF and 13,500 FTE.

Rickes Associates (RA) conducted a Master Plan/Optimization study in conjunction with a Strategic Program Alignment to inform discussions regarding the programmatic direction of each of the sites in response to shifting demographics as well as workforce needs. At the campus level, RA identified space deficits related to fragmentation of units and design-challenged rooms. For each campus, opportunities to meet the space needs within the existing footprint of the building were identified through redesign, reassignment, or relocation of units. The provided options were defined to meet pressing near-term need for better-designed instructional space as well as opportunities to promote efficiencies and synergies across units.

Overlaid on this was the question of capital expenditures related to programs distributed across the various sites. As part of the strategic approach, existing academic programs and associated workforce needs were aligned to identify if CCAC was offering programs for which no jobs / few job opportunities were available or if there were workforce opportunities that CCAC was not currently addressing in its academic programs.

Collectively, these analyses established a quantitative base and provided CCAC with the critical tools to make data-driven decisions in the context of an overall wholistic review of campus space needs.