

NIRSA 2013 Outstanding Facilities Award Executive Summary

Center for Human Performance Expansion Angelo State University San Angelo, Texas

The Center for Human Performance Expansion opened on May 2, 2011 and was an immediate hit with students and faculty. The two story 21,000 square feet and \$5 million dollar facility added much needed weights and cardio space, a 3 lane jogging track, bouldering and climbing walls and a new face for the UREC department to the campus core.

Correlation to Campus Master Plan and Mission

The addition is carefully designed to follow the guidelines established by the campus master plan. The Center for Human Performance expansion was located parallel to the primary circulation path through the campus, the East Mall. One of the primary objectives of the campus master plan is to position buildings and additions to enliven and enhance the pedestrian mall. The Center for Human Performance expansion was sited to be directly against the East Mall with activity spaces placed parallel to it to maximize visibility.

Intended and Actual Impact to the Recreation Program

One of the primary issues with the existing facility prior to the expansion was that no one, from the exterior of the existing building, knew what function it served. There were very few windows, and the building offered very little in terms of promotion for the UREC programs at Angelo State. The addition was intended to provide transparency and to visually promote the activities inside which in turn would increase participation and aid in student recruitment and retention. In addition, the expansion was designed to simplify the buildings security and provide a new single point of entry.

Facility utilization rates have tripled since the opening. Three new assistant directors and two graduate assistants were hired to manage new programming initiatives (i.e. Outdoor Adventures, Fitness, and Facilities). Personnel has grown from one director and 10 student staff in FY 2000 to six professional staff members, two support staff, five graduate assistants, and over 200 student staff currently. The staff increase was necessary to adequately supervise a thriving Intramural Sports Program of approximately 170 teams per major sport and increasing participation in the newly developed programs. The department's operations budget has increased from \$150,000 in FY 2000 to \$1,400,000 currently reflecting an increase in student fees to subsidize the debt service and expanded operations.

In terms of amenities, the expansion added approximately 9,000 square feet of weights and cardio space to the existing buildings 2,000 square feet including new equipment and a 1/11th of a mile indoor jogging track. Neither the campus nor the community of San Angelo had a rock climbing facility before the expansion but now have a 720 square foot bouldering wall and a 40' tall climbing tower.

Unique Aesthetic or Architectural Design Features

The expansion was designed to elongate the building along the primary pedestrian path through campus and provide views into the activity spaces. The climbing tower punctures the primary roof and is visible above through glass walls. A glass enclosed large bay window above the primary entry serves as additional cardio space and puts the activities on display from the exterior.

On the interior, a maple wood slat wall with embedded day use lockers faces the control desk and extends as a guardrail at the second floor. Photos of Angelo State students participating in UREC activities and intramurals are used in a vinyl graphic wall covering to further promote the various programs of the UREC department.

Functionality and Relationship between Facility Design and Staffing

The expansion was designed as a large open space with a centrally located control desk. This allows the facility to be visually supervised from one location. From the control desk, a staff member can see directly into the weight room and cardio space, the jogging track, the climbing area and the existing gymnasium. Prior to the expansion, there was no visibility into the gymnasium from any adjacent space.

Sustainable/Green Features

While the campus did not pursue LEED certification, there are several sustainable features that make the expansion ecologically prudent. The abundance of north facing glazing keeps the activity spaces well lit with natural light during the day and energy efficient T5 fluorescents keep the space glowing at night. A 12,500 gallon above ground cistern collects rain water from the roof, as well as the condensation from the HVAC units, and supplies needed water for the expansion's landscaping.

Use of Technology

Access to the new entrance to the Center for Human Performance is controlled by two biometric hand scanners that link to the campus wide one Card ID system.