

“OUR GOAL WITH THE NEW FACILITY WAS TO HAVE A UNIQUE, WELCOMING, AND THOUGHT PROVOKING EDUCATIONAL SPACE WHICH HAD THE LOOK AND FEEL OF A MODERN DAY CORPORATE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT. NATIONAL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING US ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.”

LARRY ROBBINS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS, TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LOCATION

Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers
Topeka, KS

ARCHITECT

Architect One

SIZE

76,000 sq. ft.

THE CHALLENGE

The Topeka Center for Advanced Learning and Careers (TCALC) is an innovative high school program that provides students the opportunity to focus on early career professional skills like project management, business ethics, time management, teamwork, and creativity. Through a project-based curriculum, these juniors and seniors receive authentic exposure to corporate environments while developing the skills needed to succeed in high-demand 21st century professions.

The new TCALC facility is the flagship location that promotes this progressive approach to preparing students for the professional arena. The facility was designed as if students are fully immersed in a professional culture, and offers collaboration spaces, multi-use areas, private offices, and team rooms to accommodate the unique curriculum that does not focus around traditional classrooms.

THE DESIGN

To prepare students for the high-skill, high-demand jobs of tomorrow, TCALC offers a variety of hands-on experiences and features spaces that encourage interaction within a professional atmosphere. Through the design

of the facility, TCALC provides a variety of rooms and professional settings that prepare its students for a career after college. TCALC's design mimics today's corporate atmosphere.

THE FURNISHINGS

TCALC selected National to outfit their space with commercial furnishings that portray a professional atmosphere, allowing their students to be immersed into a real-world setting. Maneuver tables and Jiminy seating provide mobility, allowing students and faculty the ability to reconfigure to accommodate their needs.

Fringe, Reno, and Swift lounge furniture create a variety of collaboration spaces and casual commons areas that further create a corporate dynamic. Private offices support flexibility with Tessera casegoods, while the Footings, Strassa, and WaveWorks tables provide unique gathering and meeting spaces.

THE RESULTS

Through four pathways (Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience and Biomedical, Business, and Human Services) TCALC is teaching business ethics and skills within a professional atmosphere,

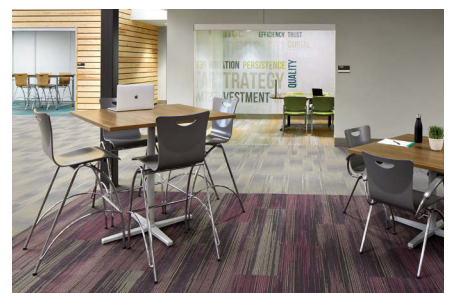
with an enforced dress code. Students and faculty agree that this approach allows the upperclassmen to become more comfortable in a business culture, setting them up for success in their careers after graduation.

SCOPE

- Café
- Career Research Center
- Clinic
- Collaboration Spaces
- Commons Area
- Conference Rooms
- Design Thinking Classrooms
- Learning Facilitator Area
- Private Offices
- Project Areas
- Small Group Rooms
- Software Programming Lab
- Team Rooms

PRODUCTS

- Ditto® Seating
- Epic® Tables
- Essay® Seating
- Footings® Tables
- Fringe® Lounge
- Grin® Lounge
- Jewel™ Seating
- Jiminy® Seating
- Maneuver® Tables
- Reno® Lounge
- Staccato® Tables
- Strassa® Tables
- Swift® Lounge
- Tag® Seating
- Tessera® Casegoods
- Universal Tables
- WaveWorks® Tables
- Whimsy® Seating



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