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TROY

# Walsh College unveils \$15 million expansion and renovation

By Terry Oparka

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Michael Rinkus, Walsh College's chief academic officer, talks about the features of the finance lab during a media preview day for the addition and renovation May 10. (Photo by Patricia O'Blenes)

Posted May 18, 2016

Walsh College finished a 27,000-square-foot, two-story addition as well as renovations to 28,000 square feet at the Troy campus.

The Troy campus now has a total of 126,000 square feet. Construction took a total of about 18 months.

A combination of investment, capital funds, financing and philanthropic giving from alumni and others supported the project, college officials said.

"This is the final element of our strategic plan," said Stephanie Bergeron, president and CEO of Walsh College.



The \$15 million improvements to Walsh College include an addition and renovation to the campus. (Photo by Patricia O'Blenes)

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She added that the college was pursuing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the project.

LEED is a point system that recognizes green measures such as vegetated roofs, water and energy conservation, diverting construction waste from landfills, reuse of products, indoor environmental quality and design innovation.

The project includes a student lounge, a student services center and the Success Center, which is focused on business communication.

The student lounge features a gas fireplace, meeting space aimed to promote collaboration and study areas. The Success Center includes work and learning labs designed to stimulate workplace environments, and technology that allows students to practice and prepare presentations using digital media and other platforms.

The newly renovated academics and financial lab has screens showing financial markets around the world and a Bloomberg software and trading platform.

“We believe it’s the best finance lab in the state,” said Michael Rinkus, interim executive vice president and chief academic officer of Walsh College.

In the new cyber lab, Barbara Ciaramitaro, professor of information technology and cybersecurity director of the Center for Cybersecurity Leadership, explained that all schools are starting cyber safety programs. She noted that Walsh is already a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense school and is aligned with the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education.

“We teach security at all levels,” she said. “You have to think like the enemy. People are not aware of the risk. Anything connected to the Internet provides entry.”

There are 10 new student study rooms, space for recruiters to talk with students, a new 40-seat auditorium, an updated student lounge, a testing center, a private room for nursing mothers, and a meeting room devoted to alumni serving or who have served in the U.S. military.

Walsh was founded in 1922 and offers 20 undergraduate and graduate business and information technology degrees, as well as certification programs. Walsh moved to Troy, on Livernois, north of Big Beaver, from downtown Detroit in 1970. The current expansion/renovation marks the sixth major renovation to the Troy campus.

Valerio Dewalt Train Associates was the architect on the new project, and Frank Rewold and Son was the general contractor.



This 40-seat auditorium is part of the \$15 million expansion and renovation at Walsh College. (Photo by Patricia O'Blenes)

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Terry Oparka covers Troy and the Troy School District for the **Trending** **City purchases fitness watches for firefighters — Sterling Heights** newspaper. Oparka has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2000 and attended Oakland University and Macomb Community College. Oparka has won an award from the Michigan Press Association and four awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, Detroit Chapter.

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