

## University of North Carolina at Charlotte—Colvard Hall Charlotte, NC

UNC—Charlotte, like most universities today, is challenged with producing greater results with fewer resources.

The renovation of Colvard Hall embraces this challenge by consolidating and centralizing academic service offerings critical to student success and global citizenship. The original intent was to provide HVAC upgrades, telecom improvements, modifications to electrical for code compliance and some minor renovation and repurposing work, but through a collaborative process among facilities staff, users and the entire design team, the project evolved into a more ambitious and transformative renovation. Primarily an interior design renovation, the project integrates five departments serving student support services into a single facility.

Rather than the departments operating autonomously, we created an inviting, centralized hub in one location so that students are greeted and then directed to the appropriate service(s). This approach saved on space and created a more welcoming atmosphere. The



main hub integrated branded graphics to reinforce the idea that students are not outcasts but integral members of the student body. Each department has a small waiting area and open spaces conducive to collaboration.

The existing building had no windows on the entire south and west façades so we took off the existing wall system and replaced it with as much glass as possible, sympathetic to the architecture of the existing building. We re-used the brick from the original façade above and below the windows. This feat was challenging due to the original construction and required additional lateral bracing and underpinning of the foundation. Because the original building had minimal windows, it was very disorienting to users and not a very pleasant environment to work in. The additional windows helped address this disorientation as well as the branded graphics and wayfinding integrated throughout the design. Although confidentiality required many private offices, we integrated glass walls throughout the offices with a band of translucent film for visual privacy. This simple idea contributed to the lightness of the interior



and allowed for more natural light to enter the building.

This transformation of an unpopular and underperforming building on campus resulted in an inspiring environment that draws students and faculty to it, all on a limited budget.

### Remodel/Adaptive Reuse/ Restoration

#### Other

#### Little

5815 Westpark Drive · Charlotte, NC 28217  
[www.littleonline.com](http://www.littleonline.com)  
 Shannon Rydell · 704/525-6350

#### DESIGN TEAM

Thomas Carlson-Reddig, Little, Principal-in-Charge  
 Ashley Spinks, Little, Architect/Designer  
 Rebecca Sistruck, Little, Project Manager  
 Carrie Estock, Little, Sr. Interior Designer

#### OWNER/CLIENT

University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
 Charlotte, NC  
 Jeanine Bachtel  
 704/687-0515

#### KEY STATS

Grades Served: Post Secondary  
 Capacity: 335  
 Size of Site: N/A  
 Building Area: 25,000 sq. ft.  
 Space per Student: 75 sq. ft.  
 Cost per Student: \$7,164  
 Square Foot Cost: \$96  
 Project Cost: \$2,400,000  
 Completion Date: August 2015

PHOTOGRAPHY: STERLING STEVENS