



COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

University of Arkansas—Fort Smith Student Recreation & Wellness Center Fort Smith, AR

Trends in fitness have changed significantly over the last decade, focusing on the community aspects of exercise and the promotion of wellness. The existing activity center on the University of Arkansas—Fort Smith campus had become dated and program constricting as well as undersized for the growing campus population.

In 2014, WER Architects, in association with HOK, began the design for the new Student Recreation & Wellness Center, dubbed the RAWC. The design teams' response promotes a transparent quality to program functions—displaying activity not only within the building, but also reaching outwards to the entire campus. The layout of the facility's program spaces was carefully designed so each area has visibility and connectivity with the next—the running/walking track wraps around basketball and cardio, cardio peeks inside yoga and Pilates



New Construction/Addition Sports facility/fitness center

WER Architects/Planners

901 West Third St.
Little Rock, AR 72201
werarch.com
Eldon Bock, AIA, LEED AP
501/374-5300

HOK

Kansas City, MO
hok.com

DESIGN TEAM

Eldon Bock, AIA, LEED AP, WER Architects,
Principal-in-Charge
Russ Fason, AIA, LEED AP, WER Architects,
Project Architect
James Braam, AIA, HOK, Associate Architect
Sonya Jury, AIA, HOK, Associate Architect
Emily Ostertag, ASID, HOK, Interior Design

OWNER/CLIENT

University of Arkansas—Fort Smith
Fort Smith, AR
Meighan Pendergrass, Director of Campus
Recreation and Wellness
479/788-7596

KEY STATS

Capacity: 800
Size of Site: 2 acres
Building Area: 47,000 gsf
Space per Student: 72.5 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$1,730
Square Foot Cost: \$214
Project Cost: \$11,600,000
Completion Date: August 2016

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN WEST PHOTOGRAPHY

studios, basketball players have views of weight training and the track, rock climbers are visible from multiple locations—all of this was intended to enable students to champion each other on all levels of strength and endurance, promote healthy competition and build lasting friendships.

The RAWC fulfilled these goals and has become a community hub for the campus while helping students lay solid foundations for a lifestyle of wellness.

