Richland Two Institute of Innovation
Columbia, SC

This 215,000 SF facility dedicated to educational innovation provides a leading-edge, multigenerational learning hub for the Sandhills community. Centrally located for ease of access for the growing Richland School District Two, the Center combines areas for community use, a student innovation center, district offices, a conference center, and a branch library.

As a joint-use institution, the building offers educational spaces throughout to encourage engagement and collaboration. The exterior conveys an industrial, high-tech appearance expressing the state-of-the-art technology and programs offered inside. The main entry opens to a large central spine that separates the more public areas from the more secure areas of the building. With a 38’ high dividing wall with a continuous clerestory, the space is flooded with natural light. Various openings in the wall visually connect the learning spaces and frame views of learning activities from one area of the building to another.

This 21st-century learning environment is designed with flexibility at its core to adapt to changing programs, evolving technologies, and future expansion. The R2I2 learning area anchors the building and is available to all the district’s high school students.

The curriculum is focused on advanced STEM and vocational programs. Classrooms have garage door access to a large, open area for project-based student activities and access to outdoor learning areas, and an “incubator” space allows students an opportunity to interface with business partners.

New Construction/Addition
Multi-use/joint-use building/space

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DESIGN TEAM
LS3P, Architect/Interior Design
M.B. Kahn, Design—Builder/Contractor
B ush Goff & Associates, Inc., MEP
ADC Structural Engineering, Inc., Structural Engineer
R.B. Todd & Associates, Inc., Civil Engineer

OWNER/CLIENT
Richland School District Two
Columbia, SC
Dr. Baron Davis
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KEY STATS
Grades Served: 11–12 from the 5 District Two high schools
Capacity: 800 students/170 district staff
Size of Site: 31 acres
Building Area: 203,329 gsf
Space per Student: 71.50 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: $14,939
Square Foot Cost: $209
Project Cost: $46,845,327
Completion Date: August 2016
Sustainability Rating Status: 2 Green Globes Certified

PHOTOGRAPHY: LS3P/MATT SILK PHOTOGRAPHY
and professionals to work on real-world business challenges.

The design incorporates many strategies for sustainability including a rooftop solar array, shading devices on the east and south façade, a solar tree and wind generator, an underground cistern, and a solar hot water thermal system. Additionally, the project includes a stand-alone “Next Energy Lab” with a solar farm. Link to video: https://youtube/WWjQEbf-Es