



Tuscaloosa Career & Technology Academy

Tuscaloosa, AL

New Construction/Addition Career-tech/Voc-Ed

Ellis Architects, Inc.
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Michael A Ellis, AIA
205/752-4420

DESIGN TEAM

Michael A. Ellis, AIA, LEED AP,
Principal Architect
Eric Requist, AIA, LEED AP, Senior
Project Architect
Yolanda Crawford, IIDA, Interior
Designer
Claire Kinney, Assoc. IIDA, Interiors
Consultant
J.T. Harrison Construction Co., Inc.,
Construction Manager

OWNER/CLIENT

Tuscaloosa City Schools
Tuscaloosa, AL
Dr. Paul McKendrick
205/759-3700

KEY STATS

Grades Served: 9-12
Capacity: 800 students
Size of Site: 9.7 acres
Building Area: 128,000 sq. ft.
Building Volume: 1.9 million cu. ft.
Space per Student: 160 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$23,568
Square Foot Cost: \$145
Construction Cost: \$18.9 million
Total Project Cost: \$26 million
Contract Date: Nov 2011
Completed: Aug. 2013

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHANDLER OVERCASH



The Tuscaloosa Career and Technology Academy was created to foster the opportunities of career and technical education while supporting the instructional opportunities with their local and state industries. Through implementing its school's mission of building student confidence and creating competitive real-world educational opportunities, the faculty and community are molding future leaders through an aggressive and proactive hands-on approach in education.

The primary design theme is to enhance the school's critical thinking philosophy

and its project-based student training experience by creating real-world workplace environments. There are twenty different career instructional suites supporting the following career

curriculums : Automotive Engineering - Medical Sciences - Animation, Film, Digital, & Media Production - Building Sciences - Engineering - Finance - Hospitality & Tourism





- Human Services/Cosmetology
- Information Technology
- Electrical/Mechatronics
- Public Safety & Law
- Transportation.

Transparency and visibility are also vital parts of the design theme. Central project rooms provide an exceptional team-building environment for multiple curriculums. Instructional suites are highly visible and offer transparent walls for students to experience other career options as they walk the halls.

Collaboration with local businesses is a key component to the success of the new school. Real life training environments have been created to provide students with unlimited hands-on experiences. Mentoring from partnering companies has allowed graduates to create long-term employment possibilities at an early age. The school's flexible design is intended to support

local businesses and their evolution by creating workforce potential that replicates their changing needs.

The design maximizes the facility's tight budget of \$153 per square foot through innovative, yet practical and cost-effective design solutions. The design provided for many program elements such as a tornado shelter/multi-purpose room for 990 occupants; a 90-seat tiered lecture hall; high-bay industrial educational wing; and twenty uniquely-designed instructional suites specific for their curriculum.

The incorporation of sustainable "green" features allowed for the creation of an environmentally sensitive building while simultaneously improving building performance. Most importantly, these features are intended to provide an environment that will inspire students to explore their

building and ask how it works.

Through its flexible design and innovative approach to instruction, the students have extraordinary opportunities to explore and succeed. In order for students to stay consistently competitive in an ever changing

world, the Tuscaloosa Career and Technology Academy provides a state-of-the-art facility for its students, community and industry partners to collaborate in creating a solid foundation for their future.

