



Belmont University–Wedgewood Academic Center

Nashville, TN

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

ESa (Earl Swensson Associates)
2100 West End Avenue, Suite 1200
Nashville, TN 37203
www.esarch.com
Sandy Dickerson
615/329-9445

DESIGN TEAM

I. C. Thomasson, MPE Engineers
Ross Bryan Associates, Structural Engineer
Littlejohn, Civil Engineer
Hodgson & Douglas, LLC, Landscape Architect
SST Planners, Laboratory Consultants
R.C. Mathews Contractor, Contractor

OWNER/CLIENT

Belmont University
Nashville, TN
Dr. Robert Fisher
615/460-6793

KEY STATS

Grades Served: Post-Secondary
Capacity: 4,360 students
Size of Site: 1.71 acres
Building Area: 192,140 sq. ft.
Space per Student: 44 sq. ft.
Cost per Student: \$15,787
Square Foot Cost: \$358
Construction Cost: \$68,830,205
Project Cost: \$78,399,269
Completion Date: July 2014
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/
Status/Level: Seeking LEED Platinum

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As the largest building on the historical university's campus, the 186,140-sf, five-story facility houses programs that include: the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the College of Sciences and Mathematics and the College of Theology and Christian Ministry. The building, designed around a four-level open atrium that provides natural light throughout the building, was intended to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration and planned interactions between students and faculty.

Every undergraduate at Belmont University takes classes in the new academic center, as Belmont's core curriculum requires courses in writing, speech, math and religion, among others. The facility includes 30 class-





rooms that vary in capacity from 24 to 72 seats and allow for flexibility in use; more than 20 state-of-the-art chemistry, physics and biology laboratories; a green roof learning garden for biology/botany studies; numerous smaller seminar and study rooms; faculty offices; and conference room space.

Sandella's Flatbread Café and Starbucks venues also provide students with varied dining options. The center offers student-centered service space that includes the Writing Center, Math Lab, Service Learning and International Education sites, Computer Science Lab and student-run business incubator spaces. The fifth-floor dome anchors the corner of Wedgewood Avenue and 15th Avenue, heralding the campus' east entrance. The facility continues the modern interpretation of the Italianate architectural style that fronts Wedgewood Avenue. The conference room inside the dome provides an unprecedented, seven-sided view of the Nashville skyline.

The center also includes a 280-seat chapel, featuring custom-designed, two-story art glass panels and a rosette

feature at the nave. At night, the refraction of the light through the art glass windows gives the illusion of sparkling diamonds.

To promote campus integration, the center connects to both the Gordon E. Inman Center (College of Health Sciences & Nursing) and McWhorter Hall (School of Pharmacy, School of Physical Therapy and Department of Psychological Science) on the second, third and fourth floors. The existing fourth floor Presidential Conference Center is seamlessly expanded in the new building. A five-level underground parking garage provides approximately 430 parking spaces and limits the building's footprint.

As part of Belmont's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, the University is seeking Platinum-level LEED Certification for the building. Green features include: multiple green roofs for energy conservation; LED lighting and motion sensors in all offices, classrooms and labs; and a cutting-edge active chilled beam mechanical system throughout the building.

