



# Aurora University–John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School

Aurora, IL

## New Construction/ Addition

Entire school/campus building

**Cordogan Clark & Associates**  
960 Ridgeway Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60506  
www.cordoganclark.com  
John Cordogan, AIA  
630/896-4678

### DESIGN TEAM

John Cordogan, AIA, Principal  
Rupa Kundu, RA, LEED AP, Project Manager  
Michael Brown, AIA, Project Architect  
Mike Utley, Senior Project Manager  
Jim Rechenmacher, Project Superintendent  
Rose Winter, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, LEED Consultant

### OWNER/CLIENT

Aurora University  
Aurora, IL  
Dr. Rebecca Sherrick, President  
630/844-5476

### KEY STATS

Grades Served: 3–8 ; undergraduate and graduate  
Capacity: 345 students  
Size of Site: 3.78 acres  
Building Area: 31,850 sq. ft.  
Space per Student: 92 sq. ft.  
Cost per Student: \$31,300  
Square Foot Cost: \$340  
Construction Cost: \$10,803,400  
Project Cost: \$12,400,000  
Completion Date: September 2014  
Sustainability Rating System/Applied/Status/Level: LEED with Level Gold (Applied)

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Since August 2014, 150 elementary and middle school students have been attending the newly completed John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School at Aurora University. This innovative learning facility, which serves third- through eighth-grade students from three regional public school districts, is designed to address regional and national deficiencies in science, technology, engineering and math education. The school and its new educational model results from the collaboration between university officials, school district leaders, teachers, nonprofits, local businesses and legislators. It is



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staffed through a professional development strategy that engages teachers from the partner districts as faculty while they complete graduate coursework and become leaders in mathematics and science education. Dr. Rebecca Sherrick, president of Aurora University, said, “the work which begins here will reach across the nation and show other communities the pathway to truly creating an outstanding STEM-based academy for the future of our county.”

The building’s design includes eight grade-school classrooms, an open forum where classes can work together, and six labs that will be shared by university and

STEM school students. The classrooms feature controlled natural light that provides a stimulating environment and helps reduce building energy costs. Exposed piping and ductwork for plumbing and HVAC and glass-fronted mechanical and technology rooms and plumbing chases help students see “backbone features” of the building. Each classroom is designed with flexible furniture and technology so it can perform as an “innovation lab.” The school is designed to emulate a real-life technology-based work environment. It combines hands-on learning with virtual learning that embraces corporate partners and community.



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