

Advancing Academic Research at Lehigh University's New College of Health

Lehigh's flexible new research facility will advance academic discoveries to improve human health.

Posted: September 29, 2022



Boston—National interdisciplinary design firm HGA is pleased to highlight the recent completion of Lehigh University's Health | Science | Technology (HST) building. Prominently situated at the northeast corner of the University's historic Asa Packer campus, the sustainably designed facility provides a modern environment for research into public health, supports chemistry, materials science, and biological science, and is the administrative home of Lehigh's new College of Health.



The design of HST fosters interdisciplinary collaboration with emphasis on thematic neighborhoods and the physical and academic connection of its building users. The building's five floors provide environments that encourage impactful collaboration between undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty researchers. Flexible, open laboratories accommodate immediate expansion and contraction of research groups with minimal disruption. The open laboratory zones are comprised of wet programming for Energy & Batteries, Functional Materials & Devices, BioHealth Initiative, and the College of Health. These open laboratory zones are all directly adjacent to – and grafted alongside – the computational research labs situated within the building's office spaces.

The 189,000 GSF building features spacious and open areas that can easily be reconfigured to accommodate future research needs, including movable tables with overhead gas lines that can support nearly any arrangement in the laboratories. Faculty offices within the open office plan are grouped in clusters, loosely



defining boundaries between the shared desking zones. The placement of floor openings, with associated communicating stairs and interior gardens, further establishes an identity and distinct sense of place on each level. This dynamic layout provides visual and physical connections between building users within the large open floor plates and neighboring floors.

Targeting LEED v4 Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, HST is a high-performance laboratory for human health research designed with an emphasis on energy and water efficiency. The building employs numerous energy conservation measures, including an improved building envelope, chilled beams, neutral-temperature supply air design, heat shift chillers, high efficiency condensing boilers, and ample natural light. A commitment to public health through measures such as walkability, access to daylight, indoor air quality, and providing healthy food options in its café also earned HST a Fitwel designation.

HGA shares the celebration of the completion of HST with our collaborators:

- **Vanderweil Engineers: MEP/FP and Sustainability**
- LeMessurier: Structural
- Langan Engineers: Civil
- Jensen Hughes: Code
- Sasaki: Landscape Architect
- MoharDesign: Interior Design
- Cavanaugh Tocci: Audio Visual
- Acentech: Acoustics & Vibration
- Vitatech: EMI
- Novus Environmental Inc: Wind Wake
- Roll Barresi: Project Signage
- Vermeulens Consultants: Cost Consulting
- Turner Construction Company: Construction Manager

About Lehigh University

Located in Pennsylvania's beautiful Lehigh Valley, Lehigh is one of the nation's most distinguished private research universities. Through academic rigor, an entrepreneurial mindset, and collaborative opportunities we challenge our students to become the leaders of the future. Recognized among the nation's premier research universities, Lehigh offers a rigorous academic community for more than 7,000 students.