CAMPUS RECREATION AND WELLNESS
Campus recreation centers should be touchstones of a university’s identity – reflections of its commitment to overall student health and wellbeing. CannonDesign is dedicated to collaborating with our clients to create innovative collegiate recreation and wellness facilities that enlighten minds and promote physical activity.
The world of campus recreation and wellness design never stands still. The design needs of modern facilities are constantly changing due to new innovations, operational needs, technologies and expanding expectations of a diverse student population.

CannonDesign combines its strong record of creating facilities that meet the needs of both casual fitness enthusiasts and premier athletes with a remarkable passion for health and wellness. Equipped with a full suite of services from master planning to architecture, engineering and environmental graphics, our team works to reflect the spirit and character of each institution with aesthetically pleasing, functionally sound, and cost-effective environments that enrich the campus experience.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
STUDENT RECREATION AND WELLNESS CENTER

Revamped Collegiate Recreation & Wellness

The University of Minnesota needed to expand its recreational offerings to accommodate increased student demand. The university commissioned CannonDesign to evaluate multiple sites and options before moving forward with the expansion and renovation of the existing University Recreation Center. The result is a compact and dynamic five-level building with key floor level connections back to the existing recreational sports center.

The 147,000 sf expansion nearly doubles the area of the existing facility. The building entry has been moved to the new addition to accommodate nearly 7,000 students per day. Key new recreational programs and spaces, including a two-court multipurpose room gymnasium, climbing wall and outdoor sports center, expanded weight and cardio areas, an indoor cycling studio and a wellness resource center.
Renewed Energy: Enhancing Student Wellness

With a focus on enhancing the quality of life for the people of California embedded in its mission statement, the University of California Riverside (UCR) expanded its student recreation center to create a unified complex completely focused on student wellness. The revamped 155,000 sf, LEED Gold center allows for new synergies across recreation, intramurals, student health services, counseling, housing, dining and other student resources. This increased partnership and collaboration is driving abundant wellness opportunities for students.

Along with growing its recreation and wellness offerings, UCR’s new center also establishes an architectural campus icon for the campus community. The rejuvenated facility creates a meaningful connection to the existing building, characterized by a robust second floor “bridge” that connects students to key fitness spaces and offers striking views of the pool, campus and nearby mountainside.
UniversiTy of louisviLe, belknAP
Campus recreation center

A Recreation Hub to
Evolve a University’s Path

Historically, the University of Louisville, Belknap campus served primarily as a commuter institution, which less than 10 years ago had only 2,000 students living on campus. Choosing to become a Research I institution, the university needed to increase the number of students living on campus and improve the quality of student life. The campus recreation center plays a key role in this evolution by introducing numerous features never before available on campus including an indoor track, MAC court, outdoor artificial turf field, and golf simulator while also expanding basketball courts, group fitness classrooms and fitness space. As a result, this has driven growth in the campus sports club program by more than 33% and recreation center usage by nearly 30%.
Forging a New Future for a Revered Recreation Center

Nationally recognized as one of the premier student recreation centers in the country upon its original opening, the University of Colorado Boulder Student Recreation Center required a combination of extensive repairs and new construction to restore it to its former stature. Renovations include the introduction of a three-court gymnasium, jogging track, natatorium and racquetball courts. The addition will provide an additional three-court gymnasium, indoor turf gym, ice arena and multipurpose rooms, weight training and fitness spaces. The effort also encompasses a new outdoor leisure pool and the relocation of four outdoor tennis courts to create a new recreation field. The revitalized recreation center will once again allow the university to leverage its historic center as a tool attracting and retaining students.
The renovation and addition reestablishes CU-Boulder’s facility as one of the premier recreation centers in the country.
Uniting a Campus and Creating a New Path for Recreation

Facing increased student demand for recreational programming and space, Missouri State University created the Bill R. Foster & Family Recreation Center – a place where the entire campus community can exercise, play, compete and learn about health and wellness. The facility is equipped with basketball courts, a multiuse activity court, fitness center, natatorium with fitness lap lanes and leisure pool, multipurpose group exercise rooms, a jogging track, climbing/bouldering wall, offices and other amenities to empower staff and students. CannonDesign worked with the university to find creative ways to engage students throughout the design process and leverage their input to ensure the building achieved its full potential.
Architectural Vision: Unifying the Campus

The new recreation center unifies two major campus precincts thanks to a unique design allowing the passerby to experience program activities without even entering the facility. The building is conceived as a crystalline geode with the stone shell – referencing the historic stone buildings that define the campus – cut away to reveal cool metal and glass interior spaces, exposing the vibrancy of student life and recreation. This unique “cut” creates a dynamic three-dimensional space while still allowing pedestrian circulation to flow freely across campus. This design unites the campus and also creates a new symbol for health and wellness on campus.
Nourishing Mind, Body & Soul

The Student Life Center at Utah Valley University embodies the theme of “body, mind and spirit” as it combines recreational, fitness and wellness spaces specifically requested by students as well as complementary, student-life components. The 162,000 sf building includes spaces for spinning, aerobics, dance, yoga, cardio, weight training, a climbing wall, outdoor adventure center, court space, a demonstration kitchen and reflection centers for meditation. A portion of the building is designed as a social bridge that spans over an existing greenbelt, creating a looped circulation path that supports academic success through student engagement and interactions while offering striking views of the surrounding mountain range.
Strengthened Culture and Rejuvenated Recreation

Seeking a new campus recreation facility reflective of its mission and focus on student health, Northern Kentucky University committed to an expansive renovation and expansion effort that completely repositions its campus recreation efforts. The new center more than doubles the campus’ recreational spaces, increases student use and incorporates a new building skin that opens up striking visual pathways inside and out of the building. New spaces include an indoor swimming pool, bouldering wall, outdoor sand volleyball court, outdoor turf field, student collaboration space for academics and expanded weight and fitness areas.
A Multi-phase Solution for Athletics and Recreation

Dickinson College’s expanded Kline Center provides needed additional space and resources not only for Dickinson’s varsity athletes but for all students. The renovation introduces five regulation-sized squash courts and has enabled the university to bolster their intramural, club and varsity squash teams. The expansion makes the Kline Center a destination space for the entire campus community with its blend of social, collaboration and community spaces, a café and the revitalized recreation and fitness spaces. The center also offers a new entrance space that raises the building’s prominence and connects it to the famed Dickinson Walk.
A New Front Door for Campus Life and Recreation

Expanded to meet growing demand for physical fitness and recreation at Carnegie Mellon University while enhancing campus life for students, faculty and staff, the Cohon Student Center is a unique multi-use facility. Part student union, part campus recreation center and part academic hub, the building creates a new front door for the university and strengthens circulation and connectivity across campus. The building’s interior is carefully organized to create visual connections between public circulation and program spaces that promote transparency and activity.
A Facility Dedicated to Fighting Obesity

A building dedicated to fighting obesity and promoting wellness, the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center “raises the bar” for health and wellness centers as a four-story facility combining research and care focusing on alternative and complementary medicines, fitness spaces, nutrition counseling and education and weight management programming.

A dynamic two-story lobby, demonstration kitchen, nutrition lab with bistro, and a fitness center anchor the ground floor of the facility. Upstairs, a clinical trials center linked to research overlaps with the lobby experience and the third and fourth floors are dedicated to collaborative office spaces connected by a common wellness lounge. The wellness lounge adjoins a roof garden featuring mountain views of the Colorado range.
Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles for Students

Driven by its mission to instill “a healthy lifestyle” as one of its principles in all of its graduates and across the campus community, Georgia College & State University created its Student Wellness & Recreation Center to bring recreation, health, counseling services and athletics together in a “gateway” building for the campus.

The new facility offers a three-court gymnasium with an elevated jogging track, lap swimming and leisure pools, fitness and weight training areas, a large multipurpose room, administrative offices and clinical space for student health services and counseling. The building achieves the goals of the Campus Wellness Action Plan by creating an exciting campus destination that unites diverse programs under one roof. The needs of the individual user and the community at large are met through the project’s diverse recreational and academic offerings. The center has become the must-visit destination on campus, increasing participation, advancing learning and enhancing the overall campus culture.
NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH & LEARNING CENTER
Uniting Health, Learning and Recreation in a Dynamic Fusion Building

Northern Arizona University’s Health & Learning Center is a student-focused environment inspiring and promoting holistic wellness with student health and counseling, educational classrooms, athletics and recreation all under one roof. Encompassing a clinic, urgent care, counseling, testing center, and employee assistance, the program provides students with information and services that promote healthy living, including dietary counseling, massage, prevention awareness and physical activity.

Originally conceived as a $34 million addition to the university’s recreation center, the Health & Learning Center consolidates five previously disparate buildings and saved the university more than $20 million based on its original addition plans. The new facility allows NAU to realize its vision of holistic student wellness and academic success in a place where students enhance their mind, body and spirit.
Launching a Wellness Revolution

In 2012, Spelman College announced it was withdrawing from the NCAA and directing its athletics funding toward campus recreation initiatives for the entire campus. A historically black women’s college in Atlanta, Spelman College made the decision to help improve health outcomes for the population it serves – one is that statistically more likely to suffer from ailments such as obesity, Type 2 Diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure.

As part of its Wellness Revolution, Spelman College also revamped its athletics building that was undersized for the increased programming and use. According to reports in 2014, Spelman College had seen enrollment in fitness classes jump by nearly 500% since it redirected its focus and funding. The new center combines spaces to promote all types of wellness including physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual, environmental, financial and occupational.
Campus recreation and wellness facilities are places where students come to test their limits, break new barriers and celebrate personal achievements. There’s no way to put to words the pride and passion our team feels each time we’re able to see participants of any skill level enjoy the facilities we help create.

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