

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE McCULLOUGH STUDENT CENTER

MIDDLEBURY, VT

THE CHALLENGE

Renovate an existing campus student center while limiting disruption, maintaining access, and ensuring continuous operation of the 19th century structure.

THE SOLUTION

Develop a creative and cost-effective approach combining temporary relocations with early and thorough investigations of the facility to minimize the impact.

DESCRIPTION

The project involved the renovation of a multi-purpose stage and performance area located in the college's original early 19th century gymnasium facility. A series of previous additions to the original building presented many challenges for the project team. Pizzagalli organized an extensive investigation to understand how each individual system and modification would impact the operation of the remainder of the building.

As part of this, the building's structural, HVAC, fire/life safety, and electrical utility systems were analyzed to ensure that new tie-ins to the systems could be completed within specific timeframes and without disrupting service to other parts of the building. The information and constructability solutions gained during these investigations were incorporated into the construction documents as they were developed. This information was also used as the basis for a solid and accurate project timeline and contingency plan. These investigations also revealed that in order to



accommodate the specified modular seating system, structural upgrades to the performance floor were necessary. As a result, the college's mail room, which was located directly below the existing performance floor, had to be relocated to a temporary facility constructed adjacent to the student center.

The newly renovated McCullough Student Center houses a dressing room, expanded convenience store, and central lobby, and incorporates ADA access into the occupied building. Sustainable materials were utilized throughout, including the insulation of the existing building envelope to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of the facility. The project was completed on schedule with minimal disruptions and continuous access to this important building that serves as the hub of campus life.