



A.J. Palumbo Hall for Science and Technology Carlow University | Pittsburgh, PA



This project represented an opportunity to design a signature building on a major urban site to assist Carlow reach out to the academic community in Oakland. Based on our model science facility developed for Susquehanna University, and on the activities of Project Kaleidoscope, CFB developed a design around a 3-story atrium/social space that became the focus for the architecture while putting science on display. A lab block to the eastern end of the site sits across the atrium. The atrium is in between and surrounded by walking balconies and offices; laboratories are easily viewable through large atrium windows at each level.

This was an efficient organization of space that placed the “student zone” directly at the center of the plan among faculty offices, so that students could bump into faculty and meet in informal ways. Office block exteriors are anchored by powerful corner towers synergistically relating to other Carlow buildings. This project was completed for \$128/SF in 1999 - a very economical price for a full undergraduate science facility with many biology and chemistry laboratories and 25 fume hoods.

Many urban planning issues, zoning and traffic issues needed to be overcome. The community activists in Oakland, who represent the citizens in opposition to growth by Pitt, CMU and Carlow, were a part of this approval process. Two public hearings took place while only one visit to the planning commission was required.

Client:
Grace Ann Geibel, RSM,
Ph.D., President
(retired)

Contractor/CM:
Dick Corporation
412-384-1000

Size:
95,000 SF

Cost:
\$ 12.7 million

Completed:
2001