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OCTOBER 2019

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CSO, Goody Clancy, and Messer Deliver Physical Representation of Butler Business School's Experiential Approach

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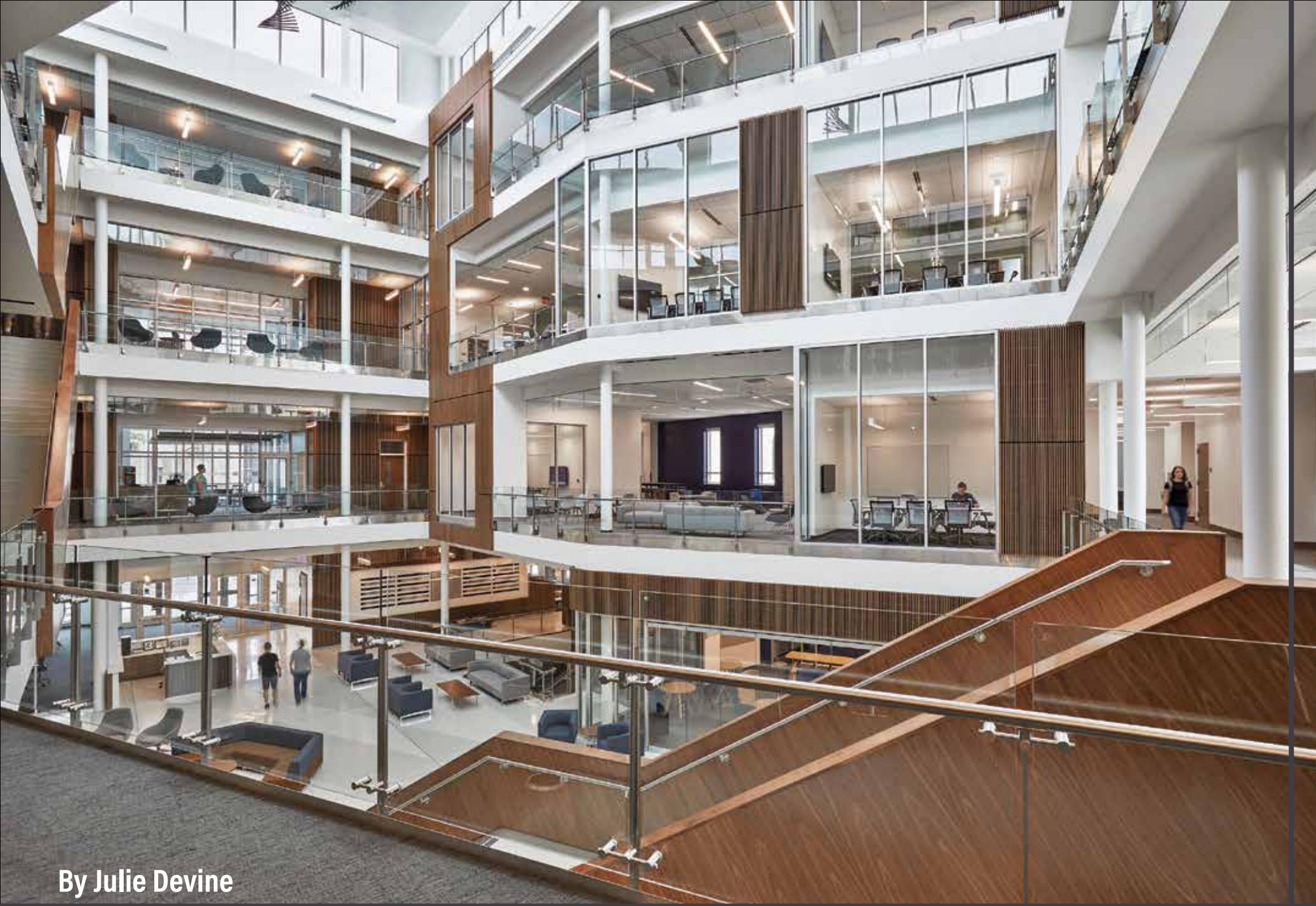
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Creating Connections

New \$50M Building for Butler's Lacy School of Business Promotes Interactions and Business Connectivity





By Julie Devine

Although Butler University's new \$50 million building for the Andre B. Lacy School of Business (LSB) in Indianapolis includes classrooms and faculty offices, that's not its primary purpose.

"Our program takes a very intently experiential approach," explained Steve Standifird, LSB Dean. "To do that, you have to create a lot of space that allows for connectivity with the business community. Our previous building didn't do that at all, and our current facility is absolutely spectacular at creating that kind of environment."

The 110,000-square-foot, LEED Gold building opened in June to house Butler's growing business school, which previously shared space with the university's science programs. A large, five-story atrium (starting one level below grade), an abundance of glass to create transparency, a variety of casual spaces, and a master stairwell are designed to prompt interactions and connections among students, faculty, and the business community.)

After a Request for Proposals and interview process in 2015, Butler selected the team of Indianapolis-based CSO as Architect of Record and Boston's Goody Clancy as Design Architect. They started programming for the new building in November 2015.

The university also hired Messer Construction Co. of Indianapolis in a Construction Manager as Constructor role.

Throughout the design process, "They helped us keep abreast of the costs so we could design a building within the university's budget," said Victor Ortale, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Associate Principal and Business School Practice Leader for Goody Clancy.

Construction began in June 2017, working around existing utilities on the former parking lot site, close to other buildings and surrounded by constant campus activity.

Transparent Openness

The building's design reflects the brand of the school, Ortale said. For instance, instead of a traditional lobby, both main entrances lead to the atrium, surrounded by collaborative workspaces and strategy rooms. "It was very important to Dean Standifird that people coming into this building immediately feel like they're entering a business environment, not a classroom building."

In fact, Standifird added, "I said from the beginning that if we built a business school that looks like any other academic institution, we failed. We work very hard to connect with the business community and this really gives us a strategic advantage to do that more than any school I've ever seen."

To achieve that environment, "We provided a variety of spaces for students, faculty, and the business community to create casual and unscheduled connec-



tions," said Jeff Olson, AIA, LEED AP, Principal and Project Manager for CSO. "All of the spaces arranged in and around the atrium are intentionally placed and intentionally sized to promote collaboration and interaction."

With only a short time in the building, Standifird already notices the difference. "It's a very open lobby and there's a lot of thought given to an open, master stairway that causes people to cycle through and run into each other," he said. "Wow, does that work. I need

to plan extra time to get out of the building because I run into so many people. Although we're now in 110,000 square feet and were previously in 17,000 square feet, we actually interact more in this new space."

In addition to the large atrium, the Innovation Commons on the first level provides an area for students, faculty, and the business community to collaborate. A unique contract with RJE Business Interiors, headquartered in Indianapolis, keeps the furniture flexible and cutting edge.



“RJE worked with the design team to create a furniture plan that fits the function and culture of that space,” Olson said. “Every other year they’ll assess the furniture and make needed updates for maximum efficiency and usability.”

A main-level café provides another opportunity for interactions. “We have more soft space – not classrooms or offices, but spaces where people can connect – in this building than we had total space in our prior building,” Standifird said. “In addition to our formally scheduled programs with the business community, we’re finding a fair amount of informal interaction because of the quality of the soft spaces.”

Four centers around the atrium, each with a glass garage door for transparency, provide flexible workspaces for LSB’s Old

National Bank Center for Closely Held Business, Central Indiana Small Business Development Center, Risk and Insurance Program, and Bright Blue student-run marketing company. In addition, the first-floor McGould Investments Room features eight Bloomberg terminals to give students real-world experience.

High-tech, flexible classrooms sit off the atrium, down a corridor on the first and second floors. The upper floors include an executive education space, an area for the Butler Business Consulting Group, the graduate program office, 58 faculty offices, and the Richard E. Fetter Jr. Dean’s Suite with access to the Chain Sandhu Rooftop Deck, used for general-purpose and event space.

“All of the spaces arranged in and around the atrium are intentionally placed and intentionally sized to promote collaboration and interaction.”

-Jeff Olson, Principal and Project Manager, CSO



Key Project Personnel

Owner - Butler University, Indianapolis; James Danko, President; Steve Standifird, LSB Dean; Todd Buerger, Architect/Senior Project Manager - Operations

Architect of Record - CSO, Indianapolis; Alan Tucker, President and Principal in Charge; Jeff Olson, Principal and Project Manager; Eric Knott, Principal and Interior Designer

Design Architect - Goody Clancy, Boston; Rob Chandler, Principal in Charge; Victor Ortale, Associate Principal and Business School Practice Leader

Structural Engineer - Fink Roberts & Petrie, Inc., Indianapolis

Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Engineer - IMEG, Indianapolis

Civil Engineer - Cripe, Indianapolis

Landscape Architect - Context Design, Fortville, Indiana

Technology Engineer - Design 27, Indianapolis

Construction Manager/Constructor - Messer Construction Co., Indianapolis

LEED Consultant - HEAPY, Indianapolis



Tying into Campus

To integrate the new building with the rest of campus, the exterior features coursed ashlar limestone. In addition, “We realized that some of the older campus buildings had towers at their entries – but the towers were never at the corners,” Ortale said. “On our building, we pushed the two main entries, each with a tower, away from the corners.”

On the north side of the building, “We did a little crenulation in the windows,” Ortale added. “It’s a nod in a contemporary way to some of the detailing on nearby Jordan Hall (built in 1928).”

The adjacent Irwin Library – opened in 1963 and designed by Minoru Yamasaki, the architect of the original World Trade Center – connects to the new building via a two-story, stone and glass bridge.

Because of Irwin Library’s historical and architectural significance, “It was important for us not to interrupt that building,” Olson said. “We wanted to impact it in the most minimal way possible. Our building sits about 20 feet away. The bridge touches it where there were existing windows on the first and second levels, next to the fire stair, so we used the existing structure.”



Stacked on a Compact Site

The tight site posed challenges for both the architects and contractor. “We were sandwiched between student housing and the academic part of campus,” Olson said. “Goody Clancy did a great job of organizing the spaces and stacking the building to fit.”

To minimize complications caused by utility lines under the former parking lot, “We tried to tap into those instead of relocating them,” Olson said.

As construction proceeded amid regular campus activity, “Messer had to navigate materials and trades on this very tight site,” he added. “They used a very compact lay-down area and had to relocate it to the other side of the building during the course of the project. Because access was so hard, they

constructed the connection to Irwin Library at the last possible moment in order to get equipment between the two buildings.”

The new building opened in June so faculty and staff could move from their previous location before classes started in August. “I lost track of the number of faculty who told me, ‘It’s just spectacular,’” Standifird said. “Part of the reason the building works so well is that the architects did a great job listening to us. What they developed is the physical manifestation of who we are.”

Photos courtesy of Tony Frederick, Frederick | Julius Photography and CSO.

“What the architects developed is the physical manifestation of who we are.”

-Steve Standifird, LSB Dean, Butler University



Lacy Legacy

Andre Lacy and his wife, Julia, donated \$25 million toward the new building and an endowment for the school. Before his death in 2017, Lacy was Chairman of the Board for Lacy Diversified Industries in Indianapolis. He also served as a Senior Adviser for the business school that now bears his name.

“In addition to his business success and philanthropy, he was a committed family man and daring adventurer,” said Eric Knott, CSO Principal and Interior Designer. “We wanted to honor his life with a series of installations. We designed icons representing his many facets and incorporated them into a custom-made rug in the atrium and medallions located throughout the building.”

A timeline of Lacy’s life takes the form of 25 envelopes. “It connects his first job delivering mail with the endowment gift, reminding students that their humble beginnings can build to something great,” Knott said.

Lacy’s family, who collaborated on the project, donated the time clock from his business and the motorcycle he rode across continents. Both items are displayed on the fourth floor.