

Cherry Creek Innovation Campus

Category 10: Best Building Project – General Contractor (\$40M - \$70M)

JHL Constructors

In 2017, JHL Constructors and DLR Group were selected by Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) to design and build an innovative, one-of-a-kind campus that provided enhanced learning opportunities and industry specific training for high school students to explore options for future careers. CCSD challenged the JHL team to create an environment to support a curriculum of real-world skills and trade certifications ranging from the computer sciences to aviation to health/wellness to building/construction, and to give an experience that mimicked state-of-the-art work environments, with a focus on putting learners in industry-based culture and climate. The goal: to expand the district's commitment to preparing students for academic and professional demands of the 21st century, providing a new kind of bridge for high school students to college and careers.

Through an extensive design advisory and programming process with the district, industry members, and community/student groups, an open-concept design with integrated community and learning spaces was developed.

The main entrance of the building directly flows into a large open area with floor to ceiling windows. The space has study steps with electrical outlets built-in to encourage open-air discussions and technology convenience. The communal area also includes digital community boards with updated Innovation Campus news and offerings, and café serving food and beverages prepared by students in the culinary program.

The fundamental focus of the curriculum and the education platform is to provide students with industry knowledge and experience, to encourage real-world training, and students obtaining trade-specific certifications. The design encompasses that base desire for students to have accessible study and industry specific labs. Included in the campus are social spaces, traditional classrooms, work areas and learning environments for business services, hospitality study, advanced manufacturing, culinary, health services, infrastructure engineering, transportation services, pharmaceutical study and a functioning pharmacy, space for mechanical work, and IT/STEAM labs.

Upon project award, JHL Constructors took the initiative and precedence to open authentic lines of communication with DLR Group and Cherry Creek School District, to encourage group collaboration, and solidify the intent to deliver this project to students and staff as soon as possible and achieve the project goals. David Henderson, the Director of Facility Operations for the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus, spoke on the genuine partnership JHL Constructors encouraged, “With JHL we had someone that was clearly going to take the extra step to learn what we were trying to achieve and then go build it on the ground. We knew we had a partner in JHL and a general contractor that was very dedicated to our district and that’s been extremely helpful.”

The Cherry Creek Innovation Campus project was especially important to two people within JHL Constructors and they were directly involved daily with the construction and overall project; President Ben Steller is an alumnus of Cherry Creek High School, and Project Executive Mario Cappella, is an alumnus of Eaglecrest High School; both of which are part of the Cherry Creek School District.

Over the duration of the project, JHL Constructors worked with the Cherry Creek School District and DLR Group to personalize the construction of the building to ensure the students and staff who would be utilizing this facility and school daily were involved, and had input on what was needed to make this the most innovative learning campus in Colorado. Jocelyn Nguyen-Reed is one of the many teachers who was involved in the creative process and design of the building. Nguyen-Reed teaches in the pathway program of IT and STEAM, and spoke on the exciting opportunity to give her input on a building she will spend so much time in. “Not many teachers get an opportunity to help build a school from the ground up. It’s an incredibly exciting process that I am honored to take part in.” Students from all over the district, that would be taking courses starting Fall 2019 in the seven pathways offered at CCIC, were asked to join committees that would be involved in the decision making processes for the building; starting the innovative learning curriculum the building was designed for, before it even broke ground.

JHL heightened the contribution from the students even further and had two executive interns from Cherry Creek School District on site during the summers. The interns were able to shadow professionals in the construction industry and have direct involvement in the development and creation of the building they would be furthering their education and starting their career in. It

was of great importance to JHL to have students observe and have hands-on experience within the AEC industry, and this project was the perfect place to spark interest in future leaders and decision makers for Colorado's future infrastructure. JHL became a direct supporter of the students and staff of Cherry Creek Innovation Campus by incorporating their ideas and presence in the entire project process, but wanted to ensure that every person walking through the doors at CCIC in the future knew that JHL was invested in their future as well; they did so by donating \$20,000 in support of the infrastructure/engineering program for the students and educators who will dedicate themselves to the same premise JHL centers their values on, "Building Colorado's Future."

At the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 1, 2019, CCIC Principal Mark Morgan captured JHL's desire to build a school of the future, "It's a dream to be able to offer this to our students," he said, "It is a good day to be in the Cherry Creek School District."

The Cherry Creek Innovation Campus was delivered on time, within budget, safely, and with an extremely satisfied client.



Exterior Main Entrance



Exterior West Facing Portion



Aviation Hangar Classroom



Second-Floor Views of a Learning Commons and Automotive



Learning Commons / Learning Stair on First-Floor



Learning Commons / TED Talks Wall



Hospitality & Tourism Pathways Area



Second-Floor Views Into Infrastructure



Interior Main Entrance and Donor Wall



Automotive Workshop Classroom