

Project Overview

The phrase ‘working smarter, not harder’ comes to mind when thinking of The William J. Hybl Sports Medicine and Performance Center. This unique partnership between the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and Centura Health combined forces to develop a building where working together in conjunction with students and the community will provide significant opportunities for years to come. This 104,634 SF project located on the UCCS campus in Colorado Springs, Colorado provides resources for athletes, students, and patients. The Center, opened in August 2020, is a destination that brings together sports performance, sports medicine, and academics all in one space. The synergy of mixing these related disciplines is unlike anything in the country.

The Sports Medicine and Performance Center caters to a wide range of users, from entry level athletes to elite level athletes. The center offers programs for remote training, adaptive training for Athletes with Disabilities, and the use of exclusive amenities including the recovery room, altitude room, load reducing treadmill, and environmental chamber. The altitude chamber allows athletes to train at varying altitude levels by adding or depleting oxygen. When training at a higher altitude, the amount of oxygen delivered to muscles is reduced, which can increase endurance and performance at lower altitudes. The environmental chamber, used primarily for research, modulates oxygen, humidity, and temperature to mimic the climates of specific destinations that athletes or other individuals will perform at in the future so that they may become acclimated to the climate beforehand.

The unique and state-of-the-art amenities of this project set it apart due its diverse draw which is expected to include current and aspiring athletes, first responders, military, and individuals undergoing rehabilitation from around the country. This Center is part of Colorado Springs City for Champions; a collection of four unique projects including the United States Olympic and

and Paralympic Museum, Colorado Sports and Event Center, Gateway Visitor Center, and now the UCCS William J. Hybl Sports Medicine and Performance Center. According to Visit Colorado Springs, “The City for Champions highlights four extraordinary and unique venues that will strengthen and diversify the economic impact of our regional and state visitors.” This high-profile project will draw visitors and increase revenue and notoriety for the city.

Solutions of Special Projects

Preparing for specialized equipment created obstacles for the design and construction team. Due to the size and unique design of the altitude/environmental chambers and specialized performance equipment, installation had to be planned in detail. The treadmill was delivered from Utah and both chambers were provided by a vendor located in Canada. Early coordination was required to ensure the building was prepped when the equipment arrived. The layout of the building required electrical connections, and final placement of the equipment had to be established before concrete was poured since a majority of the equipment sits in concrete impressions.

Since the chambers came from Canada, this required coordination between all trades, especially during COVID-19. Borders between the United States and Canada were closed making it difficult for the manufacturer to test and service them. The team combatted this obstacle by utilizing trades onsite to complete work that would typically be completed by the equipment vendor and by bringing in specialized trades to start up the chambers and commission them with testing and training performed virtually.

COVID-19 also played a role in project execution in the final stages of the project. From the beginning of the pandemic, safety measures were put into place. By implementing phased work schedules and shifting work crews, the jobsite density was decreased. This increased the importance of coordination between trades as the ability to collaborate in a traditional way was not possible. The Hybl team implemented standups before each shift to ensure a smooth transition between crews. Despite the pandemic causing a few obstacles, the project met all critical dates and achieved Centura’s first patient day target.

Excellence in Project Execution and Management/Team Approach

This project was a design-build effort between JE Dunn Construction and Architects, RTA Architects and HOK. There was heavy team involvement between the project teams and the owners. The team regularly met to discuss team goals and establish a basis for achieving these goals within the project's budget and schedule.

Centura was very involved in the early stages, through programming, design, and equipment selection. Centura's business plan hinged on meeting a first patient day. They set their intent early on with all teams to provide patient care as quickly as possible.

The project purpose statement is, "We will create a nationally acclaimed Sports Medicine and Performance Center that provides high quality, innovative, and integrated clinical, educational, and research programs to enable teams and individuals in the achievement of their goals." The purpose statement outlines so much more than design and construction; it sheds light on just how important this project is to the community, the university, and the athletes it serves.

The project team collaborated to give guided tours to perspective clients, students, Colorado residents, and even city council members!

Construction Innovations/State-of-the-Art Advancement

A heavy upfront BIM effort was employed to coordinate the building structure, mechanical, electrical, life safety, and plumbing systems. In terms of Lean construction, choosing by advantage was used during space planning, target value design was utilized to maintain program and budget, and pull planning was used to organize deliveries of materials and equipment. With limited onsite storage space, deliveries had to be as close to on time as possible to move onto the next phase of the project. Being on schedule was exceptionally important to ensure install of all amenities could move forward as planned. The \$250,000 treadmill was embedded in the floor of the building to allow a large range of motion. Elevating 30 degrees and accelerating up to 40 MPH, the treadmill can accommodate athletes in wheelchairs, as well as bikers, joggers, and so much more.

This project is comprised of 45 uniquely configured audio-visual room types including lecture halls, anatomy labs, metabolic testing labs, sports nutrition, and other various rooms. JE Dunn Smart Building Solutions (SBS) self-perform group performed the design build for the AV, and structured cabling and a security system. As the SBS team worked closely with UCCS and Centura end users.

Environmental/Safety

Safety is an essential part of all operations at JE Dunn and is integrated into all levels of management. Since safety is part of our culture, it is embedded in our employees at all levels of the organization and always front of mind onsite or offsite. Safety is a team effort in that it is looked at through an accountability approach.

This project team had an exceptional attitude toward safety. A customized safety orientation video was created prior to start of construction to talk about safety on the jobsite as well as culture, purpose of the project, expectations, and speaking out when you feel unsafe. Group Manager Matt Vineyard mentioned that the whole team was on board early on, setting the stage for a successful project.

Weekly leadership safety walks were implemented and involved leaders from all trades onsite. Participants focused on current operations to help ensure the safety of all tradespeople and found that these walks helped drive out safety concerns of future operations. On top of encouraging a culture of safety, this also encouraged teamwork.

Various safety programs were created which gave people recognition for going above and beyond. Individuals could be nominated by leadership, or their peers for being exceptional. They were recognized and awarded for their commitment to safety incentivizing a positive attitude regarding safety.

Given the site was a regular host to tours, safety was a daily consideration to ensure that the jobsite was ready for visitors. Located on the UCCS campus and adjacent to the Lane Center, it was crucial that the surrounding areas were clear of debris, and that the tower crane did not go

outside of the allotted barriers of the site.

In addition to project safety, COVID-19 safety became the new norm. Safety procedures were integrated into the daily activities and simply became part of the process.

Excellence in Client Service and/or Contribution to Community

Known as Olympic City USA, Colorado Springs has welcomed the William J. Hybl Sports Medicine and Performance Center to its resume as a leader of athletic development in the country. While only open for a short time, it is already drawing traffic to the Colorado Springs area, in turn, generating revenue for Centura Health and the city.

The degree programs that this building will house will also be beneficial in influencing the community with future alumni that can make a difference in the world. These degree programs include Nursing, Health Sciences, and Human Physiology and Nutrition. The programs will bring about innovation and will provide students the opportunity to pursue various degrees. JE Dunn is proud to have another prominent project completed for a valued client in UCCS. There is value in creating a continued relationship not only with the client, but also with the entire community.









