# Tarrant County College Student Success Center Interdisciplinary Capstone Project Fort Worth Texas



### **Project Overview**

Interdisciplinary teams engineered fully integrated designs for the Student Success Center on the Tarrant County College campus in Fort Worth, Texas, a 3-story, 153,490sf building with classrooms, administration spaces, and a large atrium. The budget of \$42M includes the base engineering of the building with additional project challenges: 1) resiliency to handle natural disasters; 2) emergency planning for utilities; and 3) overall building performance enhancements.

The intent is to create an inviting space focused and designed around the college's desire to be one college, student ready, and to serve the community.



## **Design Challenges**

### **Resilient Building – Natural Disasters** ردر((((())))

- Community Shelter
- Safe Room
- **Protected Utilities**
- EF-3 rated facility
- EF-5 rated storm shelter
- Protection of mechanical and electrical systems that were designed with
- resiliency and redundancy in mind EF-5 rated windows to maintain
- structural integrity and thermal performance while allowing daylight in the space

**Emergency Planning - Utilities** Full Power for 2 Days 40% Square Footage Powered for 5 Additional Days 2 Dedicated Emergency Panels

### **Building Performance Enhancement**

Floor One sDA

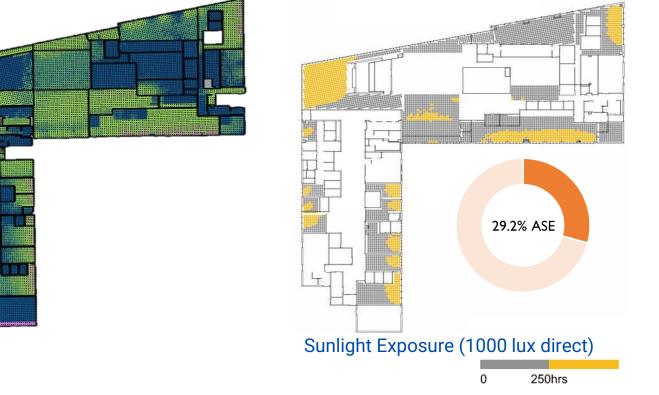
### 54.6% Reduction over ASHRAE 90.1 Baseline

- Improved Daylight Access of Regularly Occupied Spaces with 53-67% sDA
- Integrated Acoustic Solutions
- Green Roof with Photovoltaics

52.8% sDA

Floor One UDIa

Floor One ASE



### **Engineering Design**

#### **INTEGRATION**

Roof Coordination

- Green roof and photovoltaic array integrated mounting system for improved array efficiency and enhanced thermal performance
- Skylights and solar tubes increase daylight in the building core

#### Atrium Design

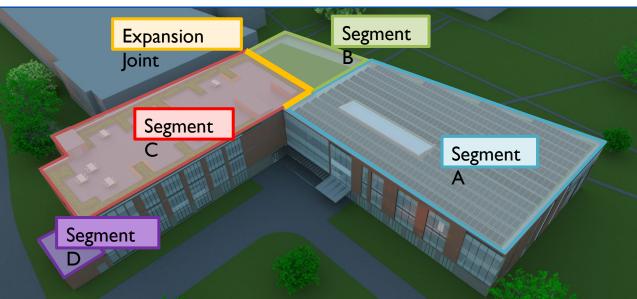
- Curtain wall reduces glare and lowers the solar heat gain while adding an architectural focal point
- Raised floor system for supply air and powered floor boxes
- Custom shading system for control of daylighting
- Suspended, integrated lighting and acoustic fixtures
- Shelter and Safe Room Design
- EF-3 rated community shelter
- EF-5 rated safe room
- Mechanical and Electrical systems maintain full operation in emergency conditions



Atrium

#### **ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS**

- Power Systems Design
- 2500 A, 480Y/277V microgrid distribution system
- Photovoltaic array and battery storage system for renewable and off-grid energy
- Diesel generator sets for off-grid power



Segments A&B EF3 resilient community shelter Segments C&D EF5 resilient safe room

### STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

Gravity system Concrete on metal deck roof and

- floor slabs Steel columns and beams
- selected for flexibility in design Lateral systems
- CMU shear walls
- Steel moment frames Diaphragm design
- Separate lateral system design for safe room and rest of the
- building
- Foundation systems Grade beams
- Gravity drilled shaft piles
- Moment frame drilled shaft piles Slab on grade with soil
- improvement Depressed slab in atrium to accommodate underfloor air

Structural

• Average annual rainfall exceeds flushing requirements for the distribution system building

#### requirements Security system for safety and peace of mind.

• The entire building can survive an EF-3 tornado and continue normal operations and provide community shelter

Fire alarm and sprinkler system meet life safety

- A portion of the building can withstand an EF-5 tornado and is designed as a safe room
- Chilled beams provide 2-3 times ventilation as required by code to prevent spread of disease
- Automatic window shades and light shelves prevent glare in classrooms while carrying daylighting further into the building
- Acoustic paneling and STC rated walls optimize acoustics in learning spaces
- Structural members designed to protect occupants during natural disasters using ASCE 7-10.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standard promotes sustainability. In accordance with the college's sustainability initiatives, the team aims to develop a LEED Certification, with the desire to earn LEED Gold by means of light, sound, and thermal



#### WELL V2 Certification considers six design principles based on the project being equitable, global, evidencebased, technically robust, customer focused, and resilient. The Student Success Center has been designed with anticipation of achieving a WELL Gold certificate.



- Pan-Tilt-Zoom Cameras
- Card Access •

**Security** 

- Gunshot Detection
- Panic Buttons

#### **Lightning Protection**

### Knowledge and Skills Gained

#### Soft Skills

Essential skills, often referred to as "soft skills" were developed and honed through this rigorous academic-year activity. These are requirements for professional engineers to make impactful contributions to the built environment.

Communication

Daylight Autonomy (300 lux)

- Organization
- Critical thinking
- Teamwork
- Professionalism

#### **Technical Skills**

Structural

- Software: Revit, AutoCAD, L-Pile, RAM Structural System, Bluebeam Revu, Enercalc, MasonryIQ, RISA Systems, Excel
- Gravity, lateral, and foundation system selection and design
- Foundation load transfer, structural redundancy, and system evaluation
- Steel, concrete, timber, and masonry design
- Impact-resistance per ICC-500 and FEMA P-361
- Safe room design

#### Mechanical

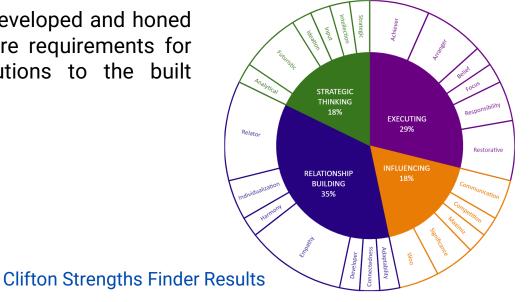
- Software: Trane Trace 700, Revit/BIM 360, Bluebeam Revu, GSHP Geothermal, Climate Consultant, VA Design
- Geothermal design, underfloor air distribution, and chilled beam systems
- ventilation practices
- Multi-entrance plumbing design
- ASHRAE 15 Refrigerant Design
- Primary and secondary system design and selection
- Plumbing and fire protection systems design
- Acoustical analysis

#### Electrical

- Software: Revit, SKM Powertools, 3ds Max, Rhino 3D, Bluebeam Revu, Climate Consultant, SAM, Enscape
- Power systems and distribution design
- Emergency power back-up
- Renewable, sustainable, and on-site generation
- Lighting design
- Daylighting analysis and design
- Telecommunications, fire alarm, security, and audio/visual infrastructure
- Lightning protection system

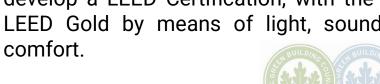
### Industry Collaboration

Industry professionals provided support throughout by sharing expertise and insight to engineering judgement. Collaboration with professionals allowed students to depth and guality to the engineering designs.



LEED

**WELL** 



**MECHANICAL SYSTEMS** Primary HVAC System Geothermal loop field with

### Lighting Design

- 67% spatial daylight autonomy in occupied spaces from windows, solar tubes, skylights, and light shelves
- One design concept layers lighting mimicking light breaking through a forest canopy in the atrium, branching into the corridors and leading occupants to daylit learning spaces

• Generator room design • Green roof and pv panel

**SPECIAL SYSTEMS** 

- loading Angled curtain wall framing
- Exterior mechanical equipment roof enclosure
- Elevated water storage
- support Cistern foundation
- Mechanical Generator fuel piping and ventilation design
  - Underfloor air delivery in

auxiliary fluid cooler for high

Chilled Beams increase indoor

• Air Supplied through DOAS

air quality due to extra outdoor

units with integral ERV wheel

Energy model shows the facility

• Rainwater is collected from

exceeds ASHRAE 90.1 baseline

energy efficiency and

renewable heat source

Secondary HVAC System

air demands

Building Energy

by 55%

Rainwater Recycling

roof area A and B

- three-story atrium • Electrical
  - Audio-visual and telecommunication
  - systems

occupant safety

- Fire alarm, security, and lightning protection for
- A Prevectron 3 active air terminal was utilized for this project. Energy stored in a capacitor during a storm is released as lightning is about to strike, which brings the strike down safely through the grounding system. This system is efficient as it uses much less material because one active air Prevectron 3 terminal provides coverage to the entire building.

#### Calculated value of donated professional time : \$339,450

(19) Mentors: Teams of structural, mechanical, and electrical/lighting engineers from industry supported students through the design process on a weekly basis.

(8) Specialty Mentors: Industry members with specific expertise in acoustics, healthy buildings, codes, shading, and tornado design.

(30) Evaluators: Industry professionals provided feedback on documents and presentations for each submittal.

