PROVIDING PROJECT OVERSIGHT

Founded and sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Neumann is a private, Catholic, coeducational University, emphasizing respect for individuals, concern for the environment, and social responsibility. In March of 2008, the University engaged Aramark's capital program management services to provide pre-construction and construction oversight for the completion of the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development.

Following the successful completion of this initial project, the University expanded the scope of Aramark's capital program management services contract to provide professional services and custom-tailored attention for a variety of construction projects at Neumann University. The following projects were completed from 2009-2011: Renovation of the Science Labs within Bachmann Hall, Renovations and “fit-out” spaces for the Athletic Training, Nursing and Physical Therapy programs encompassing 10,000 square feet in three different buildings, and the coordination of the campus-wide upgrades to the fire alarm system.

In 2009, Neumann University worked with Aramark to create The Neumann Turf Field project that featured a new multi-sport (soccer, lacrosse, field hockey) synthetic turf field with a 500-seat stadium grandstand, backstop screens, fences, gates and stormwater management structures. The design also includes athletic field lighting, a multi-sport scoreboard and a grandstand with an elevated press box. The 100,744 square foot field was completed for the 2009 fall sports season.

Complete project cost: $2,200,000
ARAMARK MAINTAINS SCHEDULING EFFICIENCY AND PROJECT BUDGETS FOR PHASE I AND II OF BACHMANN BUILDING RENOVATIONS AND THE BRUDER LIFE CENTER ADDITION

In 2011, the University engaged Aramark’s capital program management services to provide project management oversight services for renovations to the Bachmann Building including Phase I of the Library Wing and the Academic Resource Center (ARC). These projects focused on program development for the highest and best use of underutilized space on the third floor of the library, as well as enhancement to the space and features employed by ARC staff for student learning and development. Resources dedicated for these renovations included: Title III funding for ARC computer Lab renovation, Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant and other working capital for the library.

Phase II Library Wing Renovation (Bachmann Building) began in 2013 with funding from University capital resources, RACP Grant, Connelly Foundation and Alden Trust. The program for this project was developed during execution of design for Phase I of the project featuring an emphasis on student collaboration and use of technology. The first and second floors of the library interior were altered completely to achieve this goal. Electrical and mechanical infrastructure were completely overhauled, and new energy efficient windows and lighting were installed.

In 2012, the Aramark Capital Program Management team began its support of two critical projects on campus.

- **The redesign and construction of a new Baseball and Softball Fields Complex.** The project included re-orientation of the playing fields, irrigation systems, bleachers, scoreboards, press boxes, players’ dugouts, etc.

- **Sacred Heart Chapel Renovation including HVAC and technology infrastructure.** The seating capacity was increased without major reconstruction. New lighting fixtures, controls, a state-of-the-art sound system, a “floating” ceiling and new altar, crucifix, ambo and holy water font were featured in this project.
During the summer of 2014, renovations began for the Third Floor Bachmann Building Arts and Sciences Faculty Offices. This project featured interior redesign and renovation of office space to accommodate additional staff, more efficient use of the area, improved mechanical and electrical infrastructure and installation of high-efficiency windows. This fast-track project was completed over the 4-month summer break.

Phase I of the Thomas A. Bruder Jr. Life Center addition began in 2015, incorporating the 9,600 square foot Neumann Media space and Meagher Theatre lighting. Funded from University capital and a RACP grant, and completed in April 2016, the project included program priorities established to achieve both student academic and social objectives. The addition features new multi-use space sized and fit-out to accommodate 150 people with the latest in media technology; a new radio suite with three functional studios, two (2) new television studios with adjacent control and sound rooms; a work room for the University newspaper, storage and public support rooms. In addition, resources were earmarked for upgrades to the Meagher Theatre lighting equipment and controls systems.

Like the Phase II Library project, the Aramark Capital Program Management team achieved savings for the University by directly contracting and managing several trades or disciplines outside the general construction contract; thus avoiding mark-up passed along to the University.

A fit-out and renovation of the former radio and television studios within the Bachmann Building was also completed on campus. This space is used to expand student tutoring and testing services for ARC and to house Neumann Media to expand student telecommunications services.

Continual Collaboration with Aramark Provides Innovative Technology Space for Students and Faculty

Further development of the University’s facilities continued in 2017 and 2018. Traditional classroom space within the Rocco A. Abessinio Building was renovated and converted to a technically advanced market research/analytics classroom with a dedicated information technology control room. Neumann University raised the bar in higher education with their new Data Analytics Lab. This classroom space is providing innovation and learning tools for the next generation of cybersecurity experts.

The project was completed during the December 2018 through January 2019 holiday break. The Data Analytics Lab and Cybersecurity Classroom features a digital display ticker, financial market monitors and world clock used for simulation of real time market transactions. The schematic layout and occupancy requirements employed a proprietary desking system with a recessed monitor. The monitors are concealed within the desk offering a lower profile and improved sight lines. This feature greatly enhances the engagement between students and faculty within this innovative learning environment.
Neumann University entered into a Design-Build contract directly with Aramark, where Aramark engaged the subcontracts with the Architect, Construction Manager, and other specialty consultants and contractors to complete the project. As the single point of contact with responsibility for the overall project delivery, Aramark assumed the risk of project control, coordination and management to allow construction to begin while the design was being completed.

Based on the great relationship with key leaders on campus, as well as the proven track record of successful project implementation for the University, Aramark continues to maintain the trust and respect of those key decision makers as well as the campus community. Aramark entered into contracts with both the design professional and general contractor through a limited competitive bid process. With Aramark serving in an advisory role, this process was facilitated and accomplished with the participation of key members of the university executive team. Additionally, Aramark managed the solicitation of multiple bids for sub-contractor trades. This was an essential requirement of the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Timely completion of the project was affected by unforeseen, unsuitable soils and challenging weather conditions. Nevertheless, economies achieved during the sub-contractor bidding process allowed for strategic scheduling decisions which facilitated project continuity and momentum.

Along with the construction of the new Health Sciences Center, the project also included 3,000 square feet of renovations to the existing (RAB) classroom space and upgrade to the facility heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment. Aramark Building Commissioning services were coordinated through the team to ensure that the new HVAC systems operate effectively and maintain their peak performance.

Over the past ten years, Aramark’s partnership with Neumann University has created dynamic construction and renovation projects that have aligned with the goals and mission of the University. This collaboration has supported the holistic development of the University community and has allowed both students and faculty to engage in a positive and efficient campus environment. Continued support of projects on campus will enrich the University’s facilities portfolio to support learning and growth for the University in the years to come.