

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

Student Recreation & Wellness Center

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



“The University has seen an increase in student retention as well as student success among students who use the Recreation Center.”

- **Curt Coonrod**, Vice Provost of Student Affairs/Dean of Students

“The CENTERS staff is an integral part of the Division of Student Affairs, and they work with us every day to propel our mission forward through collaboration on programs and initiatives, support for their colleagues throughout the division, and their tireless commitment to fostering a sense of belonging on our campus.

- **Jessica Long-Pease**, UMSL Director II, Millennium Student Center & Office of Student Involvement

A leading public research university in the Midwest, the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) has continued to expand campus life in recent years. A desire for dedicated recreation space and enhanced student development opportunities were paramount in the construction of an award winning wellness facility.

Passed by a student referendum in the 2011-2012 academic year by an overwhelming majority of students, the Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) is a building central to the continued campus development at UMSL. In December 2013, UMSL selected CENTERS, LLC to manage the RWC and its associated staff, budgets, programs, and services. UMSL broke ground on the RWC in November 2013 and opened in July 2015. The RWC includes approximately 100,000 square feet of space for open recreation, intramural sports, and wellness education.

UMSL administration identified several key factors when selecting Centers: developing a central gathering place on campus, alcohol free social opportunities, stress mitigation, recruitment/retention, leadership and professional development, and long-term financial stability, among others. CENTERS staff used this feedback in forming an actionable business plan, and has naturally interwoven it into the daily operations.

Planning

Brailsford & Dunlavey

Operations

CENTERS, LLC

Design Architect

Cannon Design

\$36M

Project Cost

100,000 SF

Building Size/Program

OUTCOMES

- » Successful transition from former Athletics space to new facility and operating paradigm
- » Oversight of FF&E budget, project design components, and grand opening
- » Executed extensive membership and student employment marketing plan

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

UMSL Campus Rec is the largest employer of students on campus.

- » 100+ Student Employees each semester with a 75% retention rate
- » Average GPA of Student Employees: 3.19

“Working for UMSL’s RWC has been one of the most amazing experiences I’ve had in my college career. It has not only given me a source of income but also a community of friends, a connection to campus, and outstanding leadership and professional development that has molded me into the student leader I am today.” -**Joey Dordoni**, Student Government Association President and RWC Building Manager

SUCCESS STORIES



Enhanced Student Experience

- » Students who use the facility 32 times or more a semester have an average **GPA of 3.18**, where ones who use it less have an average of 2.98, compared to those who do not use it at all have an average of 2.92.
- » **76%** said Campus Rec assisted them in developing healthy habits.
- » **65%** said Campus Rec provided them with an opportunity to learn a new skill or activity.
- » **4,294 students** participated on **576 Intramural** teams.



Financial Sustainability

- » RWC Project overall **budget savings of \$250,000** and put in reserve
- » **Reduction of \$150,000+** in annual operational expenses through labor, negotiated third party custodial contract, utility and other cost savings measures
- » **Increase of about \$150,000** program related (non-student fee) revenue since opening
- » Sustained **1,000+ monthly membership base** with dynamic structure: students, faculty/staff and retirees, alumni, community, early bird, student extension, senior, military, community partners, guest pass, and two-week trial memberships.



Project Management

- » Barrier netting added off of gym courts to mitigate risk and liability issues
- » Motorized blinds added on windows to improve participants ability to see during activity

FACILITY FEATURES

3 Lane Jogging Track

2 Court Gymnasium

Multi-Activity Court

4 Group Fitness Rooms

15,000 SF Fitness & Weight Center with Stretching Areas

32 Ft. Climbing Wall & 12 Ft. Bouldering Wall

Personal Training Suite

Fitness/Recreation Pool featuring:

5 Lap Lanes

Zip Line

Whirlpool

Proshop