Program Summary:

Progressive new community college campus for student-focused career counseling, testing, training, and meetings, including a café to foster community and student interaction.

Program Statement:

A Community and Technical College seeking a bold new identity and a student-centered welcoming facility developed a building program including career counseling, testing services, flexible meeting and training rooms, and a welcoming café. Site constraints, including a live oak tree grove, existing structures, a drive-thru café, and flood elevation requirements, all drove the design elements. The exterior use of brick and metal relates to the existing campus vernacular. The interior design and finishes have an industrial aesthetic with added wood elements in intimate spaces. Industrial training, a core curriculum of the college, was a guiding design concept. The career counseling area offers expansive views into the live oak grove and interfaces with the main circulation spine, featuring booths open on both sides. This concept combines intimacy and transparency while adding the warmth of wood to the industrial aesthetics. The planning parti places the café and multipurpose meeting room on the community façade, while the counseling and other student activities face the campus façade. The high-volume circulation spine, with clerestory windows, floods the interior with natural light. Perforated and corrugated metal creates a veil of transparency over the outdoor café lounge and student entry. The extensive use of metal reflects the industrial training curriculum. Site planning connects the facility to the administration building, protects the live oak grove, and accommodates the drive-thru café.

A280.01

Building Area: (sf)
17,562 SF

Cost per Square Foot:
$528.11

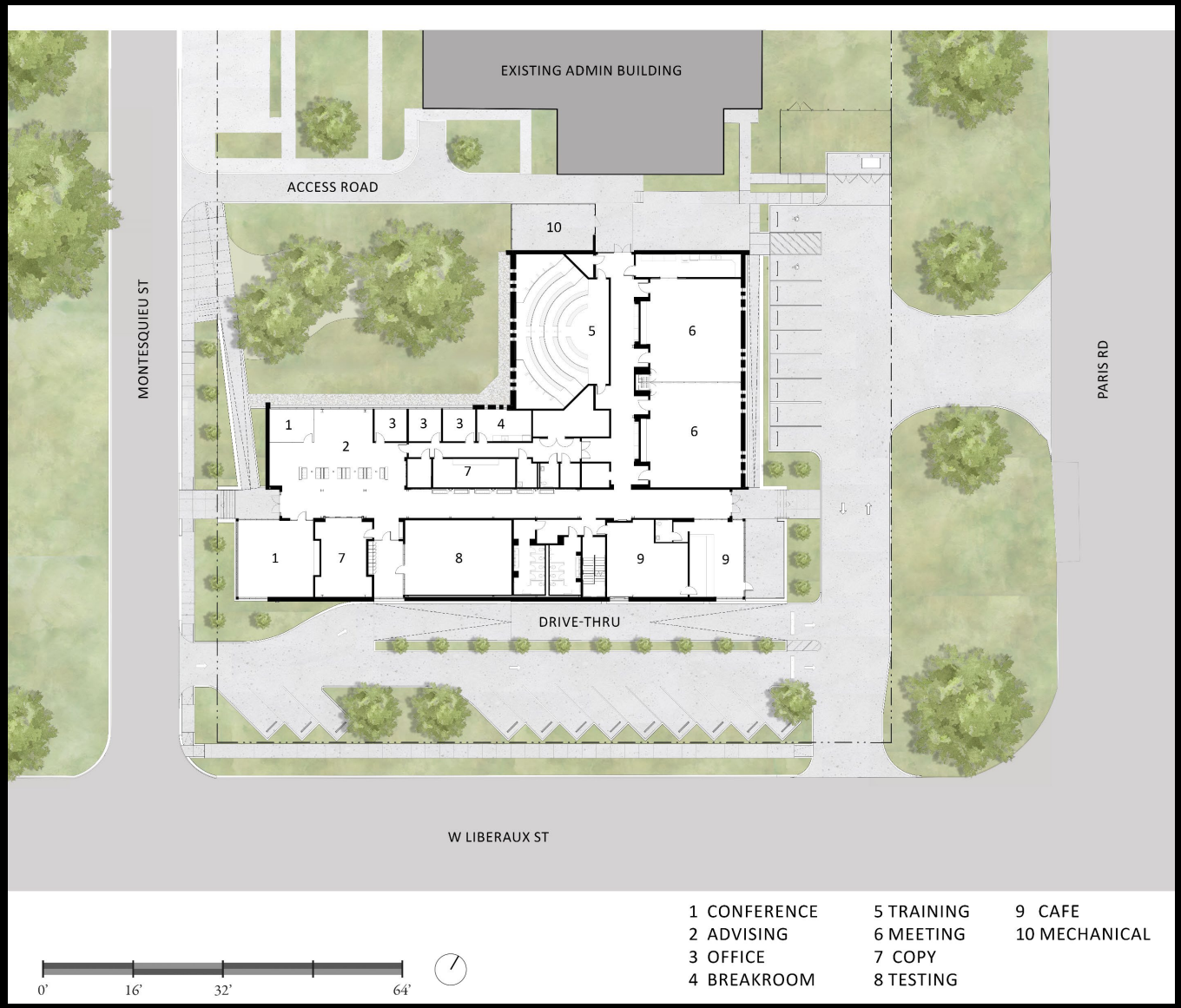
Construction Cost
$9,274,748.76

Date of Completion:
April 11, 2024

A280.02

The community façade entry features outdoor café dining under a cantilever roof form. The building is elevated to meet flood elevation requirements. The college logo is prominently displayed on a corrugated perforated metal scrim, offering solar and rain protection while allowing diffused natural light into the café. The metal roof extends down parts of the façade. The landscaping incorporates indigenous plants native to the campus environment.

A280.03



The site is located on the southeast corner of the campus, serving as a connection between the community and the campus. The planning parti places student services on the campus side and the café and multipurpose rooms on the community side. A high-volume spine bisects the plan, connecting the campus to the community with clerestory windows that allow diffused northern natural light into the corridor. The training lecture hall corridor connects the new facility to the Schenk existing administration building. The L-shaped plan embraces and protects an existing live oak tree grove.

A280.04

The community façade features a welcoming entry with an outdoor covered dining space. The east façade is shaded with a perforated, corrugated metal scrim, providing filtered light, transparency, and ventilation. The café includes a drive-up window, separated from the parking area by a landscaped planter.

The east community entry roof features cantilever overhangs to protect doors and outdoor dining areas. The facility is elevated on a plinth to meet flood elevation requirements. Native landscaping separates the outdoor porch from the parking area. Metal scrims and wall panels add textural interest while providing shade.

A280.05

The south façade faces the parking lot and campus edge. Standing seam metal siding overlaps the brick plinth, with cantilevered overhangs at the corners. Windows are minimized to accommodate functional spaces and reduce solar gain. The drive-through café window is located behind a landscape planter. The north façade offers expansive views into an existing live oak tree grove. Variegated metal siding highlights the window fenestration. The live oak grove serves as a backdrop for the counseling area.

A280.06

The campus/student entry, located next to the conference room, is sheltered by cantilevered roof forms. The high roof connects the community and campus entry, leading into the main circulation spine. A ramp extends from the oak grove to the entry.

A280.07

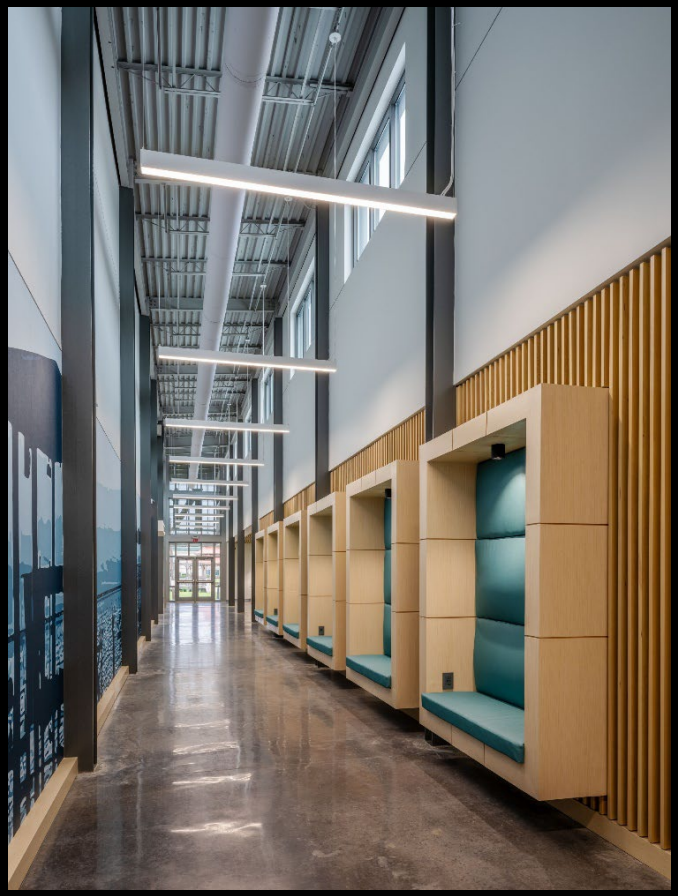
The campus façade uses perforated and corrugated metal scrim and standing seam metal panels, mimicking the community face. The conference room, located under the roof cantilever, offers expansive views of the campus.

A280.08

The main circulation spine, connecting the community and campus entries, opens into various functional spaces. Booths open on both sides, offering transparent counseling opportunities. Wood slat ceiling and wall elements, along with booth construction, add warmth to the industrial aesthetic. The spine's high volume allows natural light to flood the interior.

A280.09

The counseling area is designed to offer diverse spaces for student and counselor interaction. Double-sided booths along the main circulation spine create a division while maintaining transparency to invite students into the counseling space. The area includes private sessions in a glass meeting room, stand-up counters for quick talks, and comfortable seating for lounge-type counseling. All these options provide views of the live oak grove through a north-facing glass curtain wall.



A280.10

The main circulation spine connects the community and campus, providing access to all support spaces. The high-volume industrial aesthetic theme relates to the college curriculum of workforce training in the maritime region. Clerestory windows bring natural light into the interior, while built-in seating offers comfortable waiting areas for students. An artist's mural highlights the regional environment, and wood accents soften the relaxing areas.

A280.11

The north-south corridor provides access to the meeting room and training area, as well as a connection to the existing administration building. Built-in seating encourage student gatherings between meetings and classes. The main conference room for student activities features a glass curtain wall, offering views of the campus. The testing center incorporates high windows to maximize natural light while minimizing glare and distractions. The lobby provides space for waiting and proctor viewing during testing.

A280.12

The café is a public-private cooperative endeavor designed to integrate the community with the college, fostering a relationship between workforce training and local industry. The south façade's glass curtain wall opens to the adjacent highway, leading to a covered and shaded outdoor dining porch.

Project Name:
Nunez Community College Student Testing and Career Counseling Center

Project Location:
Chalmette, Louisiana

Owner/Client:
Louisiana Community and Technical College System

Architect(s) of Record:
(names and addresses)
Holly & Smith Architects
208 North Cate Street
Hammond, LA 70401

Project Team:
Holly & Smith Architects

Landscape Architect:
Roy T. Dufreche & Associates

Consultants:
Structural: Schrenk Endom & Flanagan, LLC
Mechanical: Crumb Engineering LLC
Electrical: Creative Engineering Group
Civil: Schrenk Endom & Flanagan, LLC

General Contractor:
Landis Construction

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