

Bemis Student Center at Mount Wachusett Community College

/ Gardner, Massachusetts



Owner:

Massachusetts State College
Building Authority (MSCBA)

Architect:

PCA Inc.

Area:

7,500sf

Duration:

4 Months

Type:

Renovation / Addition



The Haley Academic Center, built in the 1970s, no longer met the needs of the college's commuter students. The College was looking for a way to stretch their budget to give students space to study and re-charge between classes while they gathered funding for further phased renovations.

The solution was to enclose an underutilized open-air patio space adjacent to the student life offices to create a study & entertainment lounge for 60+ students that also serves as swing space for students during the future renovation of the dining wing. The adjacent outdoor patio, reconfigured to attain ADA compliance, connects to new outdoor seating, walkways, and lawn areas.



Subsequent phases of development include full renovation of the dining wing and a new main entry. The phased renovation represents the first project MSCBA is managing for a community college.