

DJC 2019  
**TOP PROJECTS**  
**EDUCATION – NEW**  
**CONSTRUCTION**  
**FIRST PLACE**

**LOCATION:** Newberg

**COST:** \$12.1 million

**START DATE:** June 2016

**COMPLETION DATE:** September 2018

**OWNER/DEVELOPER:** George Fox University

**ARCHITECT:** Soderstrom Architects

**ENGINEER:** KPFF Consulting Engineers

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Todd Construction Inc.



## Hadlock Student Center

**SUBMITTED BY: SODERSTROM ARCHITECTS AND TODD CONSTRUCTION**

**G**eorge Fox University's newest building, the Hadlock Student Center, is a 48,000-square-foot space that serves as a recreation and athletic facility for students on campus. Together with the newly finished Canyon Commons, the center re-establishes the east side of campus as a bustling, welcoming area of communal gathering for students. Campus leadership has seen a 25 percent increase in enrollment in the past 10 years, and the demand for an area for sports and athletics use has been evident. This state-of-the-art building meets the steep need that the university had for a large enough space that can accommodate sports practices, games, and recreational activities.

Before construction began, four small campus buildings were removed and natural gas, city water, and sewer lines were installed, including about 400 feet of electrical lines that were buried underground. There were several delays along the way, including maneuvering through a compact worksite and dealing with product delivery delays that caused setbacks that were months long. However, the project team worked long hours to get back on track and complete construction as efficiently as possible. The project was completed last September at a cost of \$12.1 million, which is considerably less than other recreation centers with similar features and size.

The new building features three basketball/volleyball courts, a suspended indoor running track with views of the courts below, a large indoor climbing facility, two

dance/aerobics studios, locker rooms, and a 4,200-square-foot fitness center. There is also a rental center housed inside that provides outdoor recreation and camping equipment and a 5,400-square-foot space that is home to student government offices, club space, and a spacious student lounge with ample study areas. The center opens to the top floor with natural light and sweeping views of the wooded outdoors.

The building design is light and airy and integrates multiple building materials including brick, wood, metal, and glass. Some of the features include tilt-up concrete walls that frame the gym, wooden glulam beams around the fitness center, exposed wood ceilings, steel stud framing, interior metal panels, and terra cotta panels around the rock wall corner. The building meets the college's goal of encouraging health and wellness, not just physically but academically and spiritually.

Hugh Bitzer, Associate at Soderstrom Architects shared, "Even after being intimately involved with the project planning process, it was still a shock seeing the initial transformation of the site from a series of older homes and dormitories into a 25-foot-deep pit running the length of the canyon. It made real the impact this building would have on the university and foreshadowed the work that was to come. Similarly, seeing the center fully occupied with students during the grand opening created a satisfying sense of accomplishment and made all the hard work pay off."

