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Wausau Window and Wall Systems Helps Shape the Campus at Carnegie Mellon University

Wausau, Wis. – Carnegie Mellon University’s Purnell Center for Performing Arts is the final element of a 10-year master construction plan at Carnegie Mellon University that has included a new student center, a 600-car parking garage, new athletic facilities, a new dorm and engineering facility and other buildings.

As director of capital projects for Carnegie Mellon University, Tom Murphy, has supervised more than \$300 million of university building projects for the past 15 years. Since the mid-1980s, he has worked with architect Michael Dennis to help shape the campus at Carnegie Mellon.

“We return to Carnegie’s architectural vision from the early 1900s, but use state-of-art materials and technologies of today,” says Murphy. “Like Henry Hornbostel, the university’s original architect, Michael worked with a small architectural firm. His design for the Carnegie University Center was selected from a paid competition from among the world’s finest architects.”

As the symbol for the university’s world-renown, theatre arts program, the Purnell Center is a 112,000-square-foot, three-story construction project that includes building a 465-seat performance center; two, smaller studio theatres; an art gallery; a common public lobby; classrooms; practice rooms; faculty offices; a workshop and television and dance studios.

To complete this major undertaking, Dennis partnered with both Damianos + Anthony of Pittsburgh and John Sergio Fisher, a theatrical-design specialist. The Purnell Center required the same materials as the University Center, but was constructed several years after its sister building. Carnegie Mellon relied on Turner Construction Company to manage construction consistencies between the two buildings.

To assist with the Purnell Center’s more than 10,000 square feet of windows, subcontractor D-M Products, Inc., turned to Wausau Window and Wall Systems® for its balance of aesthetics and performance. D-M Products president, Dick Macurak, Jr., explains, “Like the University Center, this is all about aesthetics. Wausau’s reputation for performance and services and the construction quality of its products were key, but the design flexibility was especially important for this very attractive building.”

For the Purnell Center, the dance studios requested operational windows that allowed for natural air, rather than air conditioning. With ceilings 15 to 18 feet above, remote operators had to be installed for opening windows and blinds. In addition to engineering the individual windows, Wausau constructed three 40-foot-long sections of pre-assembled window wall for streamlined delivery and fast installation.

The same, dual finish was used on both buildings. A custom green, now called Carnegie Green, was developed by Linetec for the exterior and a standard white was used for the windows' interior. Window framing depths varied from 3.25" to 5" to 6", but all needed to appear as similar pieces of the whole structure.

Murphy explains, "If you walk down the street, to one side you'll see the University Center and to the other, the Purnell Center. The two main rungs of the buildings are parallel, the arches are identical and the windows are identical. We used the same brick, the same roof, the same windows and the same colors."

Nationally recognized for its innovative expertise, Wausau Window and Wall Systems is an industry leader in engineering window and curtainwall systems for commercial and institutional construction applications. For 50 years, Wausau has worked closely with architects, building owners and contractors to realize their vision for aesthetic beauty and lasting value, while striving to maintain the highest level of customer service, communication and overall satisfaction.

Wausau is a part of Apogee Enterprises, Inc., a publicly held, U.S. corporation. For more information on Wausau Window and Wall Systems, please call (877) 678-2983, or visit www.wausauwindow.com.

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