

Coronavirus and the Construction Industry

Expecting the Unexpected

PG 6

Future Forecasting

PG 12





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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the famous quote goes, "Expect the unexpected." So far, no truer words than those can relate to the overall concept of the year 2020. What was shaping up to be a very busy, rewarding year has ultimately turned out to be one of a humbling and surprising nature as forecasted projections changed considerably due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With our 19th edition of *Inside Nielsen*, we wanted to spotlight the serious impacts our industry of construction, and many others, have sustained as a result of the effects from the coronavirus. This severe, and clearly fatal, virus has exposed not only for us as humans, but our business and economic worlds too, profound observations and results. From the beginning of the year, corporately speaking, we have worked tirelessly to develop adequate protocols to keep our employees and clients safe, but also to keep the doors open and lights on as a business.

In this concerning time of uneasiness, it is important that we stand together as a positive group of professionals, ready to embrace the challenges and prevail. This too shall pass; the pandemic will not last forever, nor will it break us in the meantime. Together, we will overcome the hurdles, adapt to the new norm and reestablish our pre-coronavirus success.

Take care,

Tony E. Biller
President/CEO



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EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

As 2019 was coming to an end, the beginning of what will now become an unexpected chapter in history was beginning: the era of coronavirus, most commonly referred to as COVID-19. After making its first traceable appearance in Wuhan, China, around December 2019, the disease has since spread globally, causing one of the most unpredictable and out-of-control pandemics to date. The effects of this widespread, easily contractible and dangerous disease have gone above and beyond just health related, though; the impact has also critically altered the world economy through influencing numerous industries.

Within the conglomerate of highly affected industries, health care, education and business stand out as three of the most directly correlated industries to construction. Regardless of the goods or services provided, COVID-19 has created a whole new view on how interactions and transactions take

place. Up until this point in time, handshakes were a sign of solidifying a deal or making an introduction; meetings and classes were held in person; people were not restricted on where they could go or how much of an item they could purchase; and so on. The list of how things used to be could go on and

on, but now the focus has shifted toward getting accustomed to how it has to be.

In the health care industry, what can be viewed as the most affected industry since the outbreak of this pandemic, all eyes are on the professionals working day in and

day out to care for the patients who are sick with the virus and the scientists who are working tirelessly to develop a vaccine. The process behind such a significant task is more complex than some people can comprehend, though, making it essential that everyone understand it requires time to develop a vaccine. It is easy to become impatient in a time like this, causing higher tensions, escalated frustrations and so on, but that only makes the situation worse. Understanding the disease itself does not happen instantaneously. Without a doubt, these already stressful jobs have intensified as the pressure weighs on their shoulders to, figuratively speaking, save the world.

Additional strain on the health care industry comes from the facts that medical supplies and PPE are scarce, protocols for seeking and providing care have changed drastically, and the financial stability of the industry has weakened as a result of this disease. Unbeknownst to some, elective surgeries were initially delayed or canceled, decreasing anticipated financial revenues earlier in the year; every business and individual is proactively buying masks, gloves and sanitizing agents, leading to limited availability for health care professionals; and office visits to any treatment center have now become much more laborious for everyone. Even though signs would seemingly point toward a boom in the industry given the constant reliance on its services, looks can be deceiving.

On another spectrum, but also recognizing the wrath of COVID-19, is the educational system. Influenced greatly by the regulations and necessary correspondences from governing agencies, schools and universities are facing quite a challenge trying to figure out how they can safely open their doors for students once again. Obviously, educational institutions present large groups of people with classes and campus life, which can inevitably create mass contagion if any one person contracts the virus and is not isolated rapidly. Thus, when the seriousness of COVID-19 escalated at the beginning of 2020, students, faculty and staff were sent home, and the educational sector briefly shut down. Now, as all educational facilities are eyeing the possibility of reopening or operating in a way suitable for all, the effects reach further out than just the "when," and include the "how?"

*In the bigger picture,
regardless of industry,
the business outlook is not
nearly as rosy as it was
pre-2020.*



Not long after everyone was sent home, education officials introduced remote learning as a way to fire the engines of learning back up. With it came an optimistic outlook, but also issues. Unfortunately, not everyone has access to internet or devices capable of connecting them to their teachers/professors. Teachers in the primary education sector were sometimes left no choice but to deliver schoolwork and make new lesson plans according to the new norm. Not to mention, with students learning from home, a great burden is placed on their parents to help them along the way, which is especially difficult if they have worked all day or do not understand the material clearly.

The economy sustained a major, lingering hit as COVID-19 made its unwanted debut, but the world of work never shut down entirely. A number of industries were deemed "essential," allowing them to never skip a beat, but sadly the ones that were not have had to terminate positions, lay people off, or scale down their operations as a result of the economic downfall. However, for the businesses expected to continue working, it has not been all rainbows and butterflies either. The incorporation of new COVID-19 safety measures and altered levels of production have really made operations more difficult.

In the bigger picture, regardless of industry, the business outlook is not nearly as rosy as it was pre-2020. Fast forward to the current atmosphere, and everyone is adapting to the new operational procedures and regulations allowing them to stay open. Fluctuating limitations on group sizes, mandatory use of masks upon entering businesses, social distancing when around peers, and the significant decrease in revenues have been just a few of the major challenges. Nonetheless, not only do consumers undergo new expectations, but employees do, too. Both ends of the

transactional scene have had to adapt and there is no telling as to how long it will last.

These discussed industries connect to construction because they rely on the services it provides. Schools, hospitals and health care centers will always need renovations or larger facilities as the world's population continues to grow and age. Companies in the business sector, like manufacturers, retailers, and other goods and services providers, undergo regular updating to their facilities as a result of expansions or repairs. What also associates them is the reality that construction companies are just as susceptible as anyone else to the unfavorable effects of COVID-19. Not to mention, when it comes time to perform projects like those listed above, the materials needed to complete them streamline from companies within the sectors battered by the virus. Thus, delayed schedules, increased costs on the bid and longer lead times for shipments have the potential to affect the cost of a project. This situation has unfavorably changed business development outlooks within the industry, and when companies are built to manage multiple projects at a time, keeping the workload full becomes the ultimate challenge.

In more ways than one, COVID-19's destructive nature has reformed the norm our world once knew by battering the world economy and upending industries of all kinds across the board. What was introduced and initially seen as only a health issue escalated to become an economic emergency and life-changing pandemic that may reshape the way society operates for an unforecastable period of time. From country to country, very few entities, if any, exist that have not experienced disturbances from the novel coronavirus. As time goes on and normalcy hopefully returns, all of this will be but a chapter of history. Until then, though, expecting the unexpected will be more than just a motto; it will be a lifestyle.

CHALLENGES FROM THE JOB SITE

As one of the industries deemed essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, construction has, without a doubt, been facing incredible change to almost every aspect of operation. From on-site to off-site management, protocols are being implemented across the board in order to follow safety regulations passed down from governing agencies promoting healthy work environments for everyone involved. To say this has been challenging would be an understatement, but like every other industry, construction is working tirelessly to adapt and find a way to prevail.

Prior to the napalm-like outbreak of the novel coronavirus, construction sites, depending on project size, could average upwards of 100 people or more on site on any given day. Now, with the need for social distancing, the freedoms of coming and going have nearly evaporated, causing more focus on scheduling and oversight of manpower allocation. Clearly, when manpower is affected, more specifically in a decreased fashion, so are timelines, but projects still need to get finished as most of them have anticipated usage forecasted from the originally contracted completion date. Fortunately, our teams, straight from the breakout of all this, began coordinating aggressively toward creating a plan of action that would maintain deadlines and milestones to the best of their abilities. In the case of any minor schedule alterations, everyone understands how difficult and bizarre this time is, so as a team, we design new pathways to overcome all the relative hurdles.

Learning curves did not stop at manpower, though. Adjusting to the constant need for sanitizing has been demanding, but critical, too. Construction sites involve many parties and with that comes perpetual touch and usage of common tools and equipment.

A process that was once so simple has evolved into a laborious task as workers are instructed to wipe down and sanitize tools and equipment before sharing with one another. Rigorous cleaning is only possible when sanitizing chemicals and cleaners are available, which was not always the case. Acquiring proper cleaning supplies has been extremely challenging, as most stores are either sold out or limiting the individual purchase quantities per customer, or supplies are on backorder until a later date. Not helping the situation is the fact that

manufacturers of the goods have either shut down as a result of COVID-19 or are working around the clock to produce more, just unable to keep up with demand. Given how quickly the disease hit and took off, it is understandable that nobody was adequately prepared for the mass depletion of necessities that the world would need to proactively prevent the spread of it.

Another difficult piece of protection to acquire, masks, have been known to negatively affect the ease of air flow in and out,





causing a wide array of discomfort for people. Especially during the summer months, when the temperatures and humidity are high, breathing through a mask is not easy and leads to instinctively lifting and removing it for brief relief. Unfortunately, in a matter of those short few seconds where the mask may potentially be separated from one's face, individuals can contract or spread the disease as it is airborne. With that being said, our site management and peers are required to maintain use of their masks despite the discomfort they may present. Ultimately, this requirement is influenced by the orders of governing agencies to keep our industry and businesses going during this time.

From the start of a project until the end, everyone, from workers to designers and owners, will at some point visit the site. Construction is an exciting time for everyone, and being present during the progression is not only a must for some, but also a memorable experience for others. Distinguishing between the two types of visitation though, essential and nonessential, has now become mandatory as regulating who inhabits the site is crucial to its success. By enforcing that regulation, it allows us to monitor site traffic so that if any infection is diagnosed, we can rapidly contact, trace and isolate the parties before it potentially goes any further.

At Nielsen, we have even established guidelines that limit our own employees from visiting job sites unless they are specifically involved in it. That may sound odd, but imagine an employee contracting the disease and either spreading it among other sites or bringing it back to the office and contaminating it. Entire departments, projects, or the whole office in general would more than likely have to shut down, causing massive delays in production. That is not a risk worth taking, so in everyone's best interest, we feel it is unavoidable.

Needless to say, the challenges have seemed to come one after another, but with every challenge that has come, an adjustment and adaptation has been made for the success of our projects. Nobody enjoys having to be the enforcer or the enforcer during this unprecedented time, but in order to collectively keep people safe, decrease the spread of the disease and keep business going, it must be done. Gauging the pros and cons of every decision geared toward COVID-19 goes through intense consideration, and given what the world has experienced so far, it is safe to say this unpredictable disease has altered the path of everything it contacts. Moving forward, this will continue to be a team effort from everyone involved until a cure has been developed and normalcy returns.

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Lessons Learned

For some, it may be traveling to a different country, for others, it may be trying a new food or recipe, but regardless, those are considered experiences. Most of the time, people look forward to the idea of experiencing something new; however, 2020 has tested that and given the entire world something that nobody appreciates: a pandemic. Now, as 2020 nears its end, the timeline of the COVID-19 pandemic's disastrous effects is gradually closing in on almost a year, with slim hope of it slowing down any time soon. Despite the overflowing negative nature of this pandemic, a collection of valuable realizations and lessons learned have been cultivated, too.

In a wide array of new understandings, the most prominent is that technology is imperative to today's livelihood. Whether it be the type used by scientists and doctors to develop a vaccine or the kind needed to keep everyone connected as regulations enforce social distancing, technology is imperative, and the world would be lost without it. Means of video conferencing, telephone calls, internet-based interactions, messaging services such as email and online chat forums, social media and all other connective mediums have proven to be more important now than ever before.

Directly correlated to the benefits of technology is the growing presence of working remotely. Prior to the COVID-19 storm, office buildings were filled with employees, teachers hosted classrooms full of students, meetings occurred in person without protective gear and so on; everyone is familiar with how it used to be in the "good old days." Now, due to exposure risks, that has all changed dramatically. What was once applicable for select professions has now grown to be the most common work environment for a majority of them. In fact, some companies, such as Twitter, have even announced plans to permanently

implement remote work when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Reasons being noticeable differences to production, variation of overhead costs, and employee morale displayed positive trends, so no justification to change back was given.

Dependence on importing and exporting has shown its vulnerable side, too, and the concept of global trade could be reshaped. For countries that rely greatly on the products of others, this time is especially difficult as global trade has been nearly frozen due to safety precautions. A lot of eyes have been opened as countries are now scrambling





to build self-sufficient nations that can survive without certain goods coming in. Some may say that should not be an issue, but not all cultures, climates, or areas in general have the proper resources to grow, build, or manufacture everything needed to sustain availability of all previously readily available goods. Thus, proving reliance predominantly on others is more of a risk than a reward, meaning more attention toward self-sufficiency in applicable areas will establish future security in times of uncertainty.

Like countries depending on one another for goods, citizens rely on one another to do their part during this unnerving time. Nobody is thrilled about the idea of wearing masks, face shields, or gloves as they go out in public, but in terms of safety precautions placed to combat the spread of COVID-19, it's necessary. Research has shown that by doing so, the chances of spread decrease significantly. Therefore, in order to eliminate this growing health threat and better our chances of welcoming normalcy back, mankind needs to uniformly unite in following the guidelines administered by those who understand this disease. Right now, a lot of opposition exists, and not everyone is abiding by the rules, leading to exactly why containing this calamity called COVID-19 is so difficult. This is not a matter of trying to control, but rather prevent any further outbreaks of the disease.

Mankind, should this not already be obvious, is not invincible. Over the past few years, the majority of novel illnesses,

viruses, diseases, etc., such as Ebola, Zika virus, and swine flu, that have materialized were quickly contained with vaccines, medicines, and other protocols, which did not give them a chance to wreak havoc like COVID-19 is doing. However, the scenario surrounding coronavirus is extremely different as it stumps scientists and doctors on just how to fight it. Not many people have experienced a unique struggle like this in their lifetime, so they do not know how to react. Given the information and seeing the daily rise of new cases, or worse, fatalities, the seriousness of this time we are living in should rattle everyone's nerves enough to make them want to follow guidelines set to combat the threat. Just because we have advancing technology, brilliant minds, and an army of people working around the clock to wipe out this illness, does not mean we should overlook it; it is very real.

In times of uncertainty, negativity can easily grow, but in reality, useful takeaways can be identified at the same time. Light has been shed on what can happen as unanticipated events unfold in a world where vulnerability changes everything. No matter how prepared one thinks they may be, times like this grab ahold of that belief and put reality in perspective. People grow and learn through encountering unique experiences of all kinds, and COVID-19 is illustrating that every day as it plays out in our lives. This dark era will not last forever, and the side effects will be dealt with in time, but the immediate issues loom front and center as COVID-19's kryptonite has yet to be found.



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FUTURE FORECASTING

When comparing apples to apples, 2020 has been like the weather, hard to predict correctly and able to change in the blink of an eye. As New Year's resolutions were set, yearlong goals were established, and excitement surrounding many other coming events grew, nobody considered a hurricane-like storm called COVID-19 blowing in to spoil everything. However, that is the reality of the time, and while everyone is hoping for normalcy to return, the main focus moving forward needs to be on how to adapt and conquer rather than give in to temporary defeat. The current COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges, but through challenges, solutions are developed, successes are achieved, and strength is measured.

Glass half empty or glass half full, the matter of the fact is that the glass has half in it either way. For 2020, it has been easy to overlook the constructive components of this era and see the glass through a half-empty lens due to the promotion of everything that is going wrong. Very rarely are the uplifting and positive articles on the front page of the news media, or anywhere else for that matter. People react in fashions correlated to the impact it has on them, so in this regard, the constant repetition of depressing news makes it hard for people to be optimistic. That is why highlighting the victories among the pessimism is so important. This world needs to see some optimism to counteract the infamous dread associated with the coronavirus.

After discussion with a handful of local industry professionals from various specialties, it became clear that the difficulties of this time have been overwhelming, but the breakthroughs they have discovered as a result opened their eyes to favorable practices and possibilities they had never considered. Humans are creatures of habit; oftentimes, they stick to routines and consistency rather than venturing toward the road less traveled. This year, however, has given people no choice but to take the road less traveled and deal with the bumps along the way. Fortunately, humans, just like other animals, can adapt and learn how to adjust to new environmental conditions surrounding them.

What this world is currently experiencing will not last forever, but some of the implemented practices as a result have shown value and may actually stay as time goes on. For example, remote learning initiatives for schools and virtual meetings for business are two formerly uncommon practices that have become popular and necessary during this pandemic. Curiosity probably surrounds the idea of remote learning being applicable to the future; but say the weather is too bad for students to travel in, usually that results in school closures. Now, since the education system has enabled students and teachers to connect from home via computers, tablets, and other devices, inclement weather-related closures may be a thing of the past. In business, virtual meetings have kept companies afloat and employees safe in the “now,” but looking ahead, this trend has shown increasingly positive effects to remain for consideration. Employers can downsize office spaces, employees can meet with clients and coworkers without generating any travel expenses, and all parties can connect from anywhere in the world as long as they have access to the internet.

Usually operational success revolves around keeping up with the trends and making sure profits outweigh costs. Lately, it has also

been figuring out safe ways to keep doors open, keep employees safe, and properly conduct respective business/operations under the new and ever-changing safety regulations. COVID-19 has been a constant challenge, but challenges end with results, and results provide understanding. Change is oftentimes scary, but without it, uncovering new skills, strengths and weaknesses, interests, and more would remain unknown. People of today will never forget this period of time and the takeaways it gifted them. Had this event not happened, the world would probably be less of a mess than it is, but a foundation of faith in believing that everything happens for a reason would not have substantiated.

COVID-19 has undoubtedly battered mankind and confronted it with test after test, but through it all, the results have relinquished inspiring takeaways as time ticks onward. In a world inhabited by more than 7.5 billion people, it's a heavy task trying to get everyone on board to do something collectively, but throw a global pandemic at the group where not one person can avoid its effects, the group will realize the significance of uniting together. It may not always be easy, but in times of despair, creating an aura of positivity goes a long way toward making the journey back to normalcy significantly easier.

Rick Wooddell

Nielsen Employee Spotlight



Experience cannot be taught, it must be learned, and for Superintendent Rick Wooddell, after more than 30 years on the job, he understands that greatly. Wooddell started his career with Nielsen in 1987 as a laborer for our project at Shenandoah's Pride in Mount Crawford, Virginia. Since then, he has climbed through the ranks and

is now one of our most accomplished superintendents. With a résumé distinguishing numerous educational facilities and other substantial projects, Wooddell has developed a keen sense of operational excellence.

As superintendent, it is Wooddell's job to oversee the entire site's operation. Fortunately, his veteran sense of leadership and extreme organization all promote the on-site dependability that every project aspires to present. Every day, Wooddell is responsible for leading Nielsen's crew, supervising all subcontractors, coordinating deliveries of materials needed, identifying and preventing any potential schedule conflicts and maintaining progress as structured by the schedule. His most

important task, though, is to enforce safety amongst all inhabitants of the site whether project team or visitor.

Over the course of nearly 33 years with Nielsen, Wooddell has gained the utmost respect amongst not only his co-workers, but also subcontractors and clients, too. Conversations uplifting the appreciation for Wooddell and the work he does ignite frequently around the industry. Longtime teammate and Nielsen project manager, Jacob Hull, has even said, “I hear over and over that subs love working on his job sites.” It takes a special person to accommodate such a conglomerate of professions daily, and for Wooddell, it seems to come naturally.

When not working, however, Wooddell thrives off of spending time with his family and in the woods hunting. He has been married to his wife, Amy, for more than 30 years, and together, they have a son, Ricky, and daughter, Ashleigh, as well as two grandchildren, Jamison and Temperance. Both grandchildren keep Wooddell on his toes and on the go constantly, but he cherishes every moment he spends with them. This family is close and takes being a part of one another's lives very seriously. Without question, Wooddell is a class act who displays all the traits of what it takes to be a reliable leader.

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PROJECT PORTRAITS

BRC “THE GROVE” – ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS

Client: Bridgewater Retirement Community
Location: Bridgewater, Virginia
Architect: RLPS
Contract: \$22 million
Completed: 2019



SPECIAL FEATURES

Resting in the heart of Bridgewater, Virginia, is the Bridgewater Retirement Community (BRC). By focusing greatly on healthy living and engaging lifestyles, it is easy to see why this facility thrives. Since the opening of BRC in 1965, they have undergone multiple additions to accommodate the high rates of demand. This project, with relation to the others, follows that same suit.

Nielsen, however, is no stranger to working with BRC on adjusting their facility to satisfy those needs. In the past, we have contracted with them to complete a handful of other projects that brought much needed change to the campus. This project, in particular, though, is a major expansion for the retirement community because it adds additional living space and more.

Over the course of multiple phases and roughly two years, BRC's commitment to enhancing healthy living continues. Currently,

BRC operates with distinct living options, independent and assisted living, which are housed in separate buildings.

“The Grove” welcomes a brand new 80,000-square-foot, three-story addition built to provide apartment living spaces and a ground level parking facility for residents. This new wing is uniform with the existing Maple Terrace facility and constructed out of a mix between masonry and wood framing construction. Brick veneer and exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS) will match the adjacent façade with asphalt shingles and metal roofing to complete the exterior.

Upon completion of the addition, work began in Maple Terrace where 24,000 square feet of renovation work was completed. New parking areas, roadways, sidewalks and landscaping complement the new additions and effectively reroute traffic and pedestrians entering the beautiful campus.

JMU JACKSON HALL – RENOVATIONS

Client: James Madison University
Location: Harrisonburg, Virginia
Architect: Blueline Architects
Contract: \$5.5 million
Completed: November 2020

SPECIAL FEATURES

Standing as one of the encompassing buildings around the iconic “quad” on James Madison University's campus, Jackson Hall has experienced many changes over the years. Initially, the building's first purpose was to be used for dorms and dining when the first students arrived at JMU in 1909. Since then, it has transformed into an infirmary, the home of the history department, to now, courtesy of the renovations in 2020, the location of the justice studies department. Nielsen, just months before this project started, completed a massive renovation to Wilson Hall, making way for the history department's arrival. Jackson Hall was last renovated

in 1971 and remains one of the last original buildings around the quad to undergo modernizations. In total, 14,295 square feet of the existing

building were renovated. That and a stair tower addition of 1,554 square feet comprise this project. Relocation of all faculty offices to one floor, adequate facilities for the occupants and solutions to time-based issues, such as water leaks and an aged mechanical system, are all included in this renovation. One of the major takeaways, however, is the highly anticipated open space layout being created to promote interaction among the students, faculty and staff before and after classes. Additionally, new modern-day technological system components installed allow for faster connections and accessibility to campus servers than ever before. On the exterior, besides the addition of the stair tower, the façade will remain the same. Maintaining the historical image of this building was essential, so the beautiful stone will go untouched. Significant landscape work will be done to recreate the healthy grass and vivid vegetation that displayed before demolition around the site.



QUAKER STEAK & LUBE

Client: Robert "Bobby" J. Berkstresser
Location: Raphine, Virginia
Architect: Mather Architects
Contract: \$4.8 million
Completed: July 2020

SPECIAL FEATURES

Established within the realm of White's Truck Stop in Raphine, Virginia, this new Quaker Steak & Lube restaurant and museum offers a new dining experience for visitors as they take a break from their travels on Interstate 81. In total, this design-build restaurant/museum is 14,374 square feet and displays a vast collection of interior features connected to motorcycles, cars and garage-themed components.

Throughout the facility, guests will have the option of sitting at tables, booths or a fully serviced bar. Additional features include a fireplace, gift shop and even a museum wing. Quaker Steak & Lube is a restaurant chain that does not cheat their design and décor appeal. Walls will have ample photos and other memorabilia to compliment the ultimate fast-paced theme. In fact, a full-size car will be displayed within the dining room at the bar, too.

Needless to say, the design of this restaurant/museum is extremely vibrant. On the exterior, a mix of brick, aluminum, EIFS and neon



lights will wrap the steel joist and column structure. The roof will have a membrane covering installed upon a very gradual slope to direct water and debris collected on top. Aluminum storefronts will be clearly visible as well as many multipane windows. The museum will feature many of the owner's collectible antique vehicles, toys and other memorabilia.

Inside Nielsen

STAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL – ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS

Client: Staunton City Schools
Location: Staunton, Virginia
Architect: Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates
Contract: \$43.1 million
Completed: November 2020



SPECIAL FEATURES

The saying goes that history repeats itself, and with this project, that stands relatively true. More than a century ago, this high school operated under its original name of Staunton High School until it was later changed to R.E. Lee High School in 1914. Now, with this major renovation and addition project, the Staunton School Board has elected to reestablish the former name of the high school after some 105 years, therefore bringing the past back to the present.

Headlining the scope of work is the complete demolition of the existing west classroom wings and construction of a new auxiliary gym as well as a four-story, 100,000-square-foot combined administration and classroom wing. The new administration and classroom wing will be added to the east side of the building while the auxiliary gym will be placed on the south side. Replacing the demoed west side's former wing is a new bus loop and loading dock. In total, Staunton High

School is undergoing 80,000 square feet worth of renovations on top of the massive addition.

Work did not finish there though, as we reconfigured the vehicular entrances from Coalter and Taylor streets, graded the site, created new parking and driving aisles, poured concrete sidewalks, established an emergency vehicle access loop and provided an outdoor classroom space. Utility work was included in the scope as we made minor adjustments, but more so installations of new systems across the site.

Ultimately, this phased project consists of six segments with some overlapping in order to maintain the tight schedule. The goal was set from the beginning that Staunton wanted this school to remain functional and be entirely completed for faculty, staff and students upon arrival of the 2020 school year.

WOODROW WILSON REHABILITATION CENTER – RENOVATE WATSON ACTIVITIES BUILDING

Client: WWRC
Location: Fishersville, Virginia
Architect: Spectrum PLC
Contract: \$6.7 million
Completed: March 2020

SPECIAL FEATURES



Nestled within the same community as Wilson elementary, middle and high schools, as well as the Technical Education Center and county offices, is the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC). After opening its doors in 1947, this

facility has been providing people with disabilities the opportunity to unleash and find their personal independence through employment ever since. With a mission statement proving true, WWRC has continued to grow and reach new levels of prevalence and appeal all across the world.

Starting in 2018, a renovation project to the tune of 30,500 square feet was initiated with a focus primarily on the Watson Student Activities Building. The majority of the work included the removal and replacement of their existing therapy pool with a new one complimented by an additional lap pool. Now, with three regulation-sized lanes, the lap pool offers WWRC the ability to host competitive swim meets and a practice facility, too. Incorporating a pool of that size, though, meant an expanded footprint would need to be established because the original one was too small. So, by demolishing an existing wall on the south side of the building and reconstructing it along the larger footprint, that issue was resolved.

In addition, this project included installation of new windows, doors, finishes and sprinklers, equipment associated with the gymnasium, pool, lockers, administration office and lounge as well as updated plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems. Partial renovation work was performed to the art room, media center and auditorium, too.

This was a project of significant importance. Aside from the historical relevance, it was an all-around major boost for WWRC. For many years, this facility had operated within the founding walls with little change, and now they are undergoing a considerable renovation bringing a fresh breath to the aging center. To this day, WWRC still displays parts of its history, but it has also found importance in modernization.

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