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Norlin Library: Renaissance Plan: Phase 1, Student Learning Commons Program Plan

The University of Colorado's Norlin Library is the largest library in the region. It is the central most fundamental component to the success of the university's academic, research, and outreach mission, yet its facilities are becoming functionally obsolete. In 2001 the campus engaged in a study to determine the magnitude of facility deficiencies within Norlin Library. A second study resulted in a financially feasible solution and a second long-range plan was developed. In the spring of 2005, the Norlin Renaissance Plan was created and approved by the campus. The Renaissance Plan established a five-phased improvement plan that revitalized the historic facility and restructured it to meet future needs.

The Student Learning Commons was the first priority of the Renaissance Plan. The program plan focused on the needs of the undergraduate and graduate students. The three-part Student Learning Commons project included a new 24 / 7 learning commons with open computer stations, project work centers, team learning stations, coffee and snack shop, hot topics reading area, new computer lab for teaching, writing center, lap top support center, team technology rooms, and a 24-hour central help and service desk. Reference and periodicals will be consolidated creating a single point of reference for patrons per the Renaissance Plan. Additional study space is integrated with the reference and periodicals area. Completing the Student Learning Commons project is restoration of the third floor.

JBA's role on the project was programmer, planner, project manager and project architect.

Budget: \$5.1 million

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