COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

WILKES UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
OF ENGINEERING RENOVATION
LOCATION: WILKES-BARRE, LUZERNE COUNTY, PA
OWNER: WILKES UNIVERSITY
FIRM: BORTON-LAWSON, WILKES-BARRE, PA

The Engineering Initiative project for Wilkes University consisted of 20,000 SF of renovated building space for the College of Science and Engineering. The Stark Learning Center, a 128,000 SF facility, located at the heart of the Wilkes campus, was originally constructed in three phases (1957, 1962, and 1974) and currently contains the College of Science and Engineering, and the Schools of Nursing and Pharmacy.

The College of Science and Engineering grants over 120 degrees each year to engineering students and this renovation ensures that students leaving the classroom will integrate seamlessly into the workforce. The state of the art labs will allow for flexibility and customization to the individual disciplines and can be configured as needed to meet changing needs. The addition of collaboration rooms will allow for students to partner on smaller scales and in a more flexible and technologically-driven atmosphere.

The bulk of the renovation was located on the 1st floor and consisted of 15,850 SF of space dedicated to new engineering flex labs, collaboration spaces, additive manufacturing lab, new handicapped accessible lobbies, and a re-defined faculty office suite. The work also included upgrades to the microfabrication suite and a multi-purpose wet lab. New entrances were created to compliment the “campus gateway” terminating at the Stark Learning Center.

The replacement of the exterior curtain wall allowed the building to operate much more efficiently. The addition of LED lighting and Variable Refrigerant Flow system for heating and cooling has paved the way for reduced energy use and operating efficiency.