



Saint Mary's University Case Study: Inspiring Collaboration & Research

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About Saint Mary's University

Saint Mary's has remained a reputable educational institution since its founding in 1802. It is well recognized for its high-quality programs and its ability to prepare students for a world of professional possibilities. Saint Mary's campus blends charming architecture with thoughtful, modern educational and collaborative settings.

Saint Mary's academic faculties enable hundreds of students and researchers to engage with an endless number of intriguing topics. A range of campus activities requires the support of bright, energizing, and comfortable collaborative spaces, such as the Sobeys Inspiration Hub.

The latest addition to Saint Mary's campus, the Sobeys Inspiration Hub is a 43,000 square-foot, four-storey building that brings students together and supports them in their creative and entrepreneurial learning endeavours.



Their Challenge

Saint Mary's objective was to create a variety of spaces that facilitate and inspire the collaboration of students, professors, and business executives.



Active Learning Space

The Sobey's Inspiration Hub needed to be thoughtfully outfitted with furniture geared towards teamwork and creativity. With practical seating arrangements conducive to brainstorming, and functional, dynamic table layouts, every aspect of the approach had to be tailored toward supporting productive collaboration.

Whether huddled in small groups for focused discussions or gathered around large communal tables, the furniture within the Hub and adjoining spaces plays a crucial role in shaping an environment where ideas can flourish, and innovative solutions can be cultivated.



Industry: Higher Education



Headcount: 6,400+ students enrolled



Building Size: 43,000 USF



Key Considerations:

- A strategic blend of variously-sized collaborative spaces.
- Multi-function workspaces
- Lounge areas

Our Solution

Atlantic Business Interiors leveraged its own expertise and resources while collaborating with Saint Mary's project managers to achieve a range of desired outcomes.



Active Learning Space

Strategic furniture placement is paramount in collaborative spaces within institutions for higher learning. These spaces serve as incubators for innovation, where students, faculty, and industry partners come together to exchange ideas and tackle complex problems.

By creating zones that cater to various collaborative modes, from one-on-one conversations to group discussions, the right furniture strategically placed fosters an environment conducive to creativity and teamwork.

Moreover, adaptable furniture arrangements allow for flexibility, accommodating different groups sizes and activities, thus maximizing the utility of the spaces available.

Investing in dynamic, high-quality furniture enhances functionality while nurturing a culture of innovation within the campus community.



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Outcomes

Saint Mary's specifications and goals required the expertise and careful attention of Atlantic Business Interiors' qualified Workspace Consultation.

This partnership allowed for the creation of a new, functional, and inspiring range of spaces on one of Atlantic Canada's most reputable and time-honoured campuses.

With a focus on facilitating innovation, space dynamics, and high-quality, comfortable furniture, Atlantic Business Interiors was able to bring Saint Mary's vision of an extensive collaborative space to life.



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Jack and Yvonne Keith Student Commons