



Southwest Texas Junior College // Case Study

How a library renovation turned into so much more

The Challenge:

Since it was founded in 1946, Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) has expanded to six campuses across 11 counties, serving almost 6,000 students. As a growing Texas junior college, its Eagle Pass campus needed to update antiquated library and IT facilities while also creating a more inviting space for students. With no on-campus housing and a growing population of commuter students, the campus urgently needed an upgrade to address the needs of commuters. SWTJC also recognized that it needed to modernize and enhance its facilities to meet the needs of today's technology-savvy students. The scope of the modernization was limited not only by budget but also by available space.

The Solution:

Having received assistance on a prior renovation project, SWTJC again turned to the Office Depot® OfficeMax® team for help. The Office Depot OfficeMax team functioned as a fully collaborative partner, teaming with the junior college to design a brand new building and get the best use out of the limited space available. They customized a plan that not only met the school's infrastructure needs but also accentuated its collaborative culture, all within the existing footprint.

The Results:

- Along with a state-of-the-art library, the school gained additional, fully furnished classroom space and greater IT capabilities
- A new food court and kitchen helped create a central meeting place for students — an important upgrade for a commuter school
- Office Depot OfficeMax helped the college select furniture with a limited lifetime warranty, which would withstand daily use and serve the campus for years
- To maximize SWTJC's budget, Office Depot OfficeMax managed deliveries through consolidated purchase orders, converting shipments to full truckloads when possible, to save on shipping
- By collaborating with Office Depot OfficeMax, the school was able to consolidate vendors and streamline its accounting while still utilizing their relationship with one of the largest public sector co-ops to ensure competitive pricing and other co-op benefits

Here's what Southwest Texas Junior College had to say about their experience working with the Office Depot OfficeMax team:

"Students needed a place they could 'crash' between classes without leaving campus. Because of that, the new library and food services areas needed to be inviting, functional, and comfortable. The designers put together furniture that achieved this."

Anne Tarski

Vice President of Finance,
Southwest Texas Junior College

Collaboration from Start to Finish:

"From the start, we brought our team together with folks from the Eagle Pass campus to talk about objectives for the new building," says Rosalinda Gonzalez, Business Development Manager of Interiors Furniture for Office Depot OfficeMax. "As designs were brought forward, discussions ensued that resulted in updates and enhancements until the final product was ordered, delivered, and installed."

The existing library building, with its drab, sparse furniture, was neither comfortable nor functional. Moreover, the IT department was cramped and out of date, and failed to effectively utilize the available space. The renovation project gave the campus:

Modern classroom space and a new library building with updated IT facilities

- The new library features updated, mobile furniture to give the growing campus the flexibility it needs
- Adding a computer lab, PC bank and multi-purpose room provide space for students to use the latest technology
- 18 new seminar rooms encourage students to collaborate on projects and build presentations
- 12 furnished private offices meet the administrative needs of the campus

A brand-new kitchen and dining area

The food services area wasn't merely a renovation — it was a full-scale upgrade. The food services space in the previous building was very small and there was no kitchen.

"Carving out space for a dedicated dining area was a vital addition to serve the needs of a commuter population," Gonzalez said.

Conclusion:

The success of the Eagle Pass renovation validated the Office Depot OfficeMax collaborative model. "Southwest Texas Junior College has been a great partner in the higher education segment," says Gonzalez. "The team there has always maintained contract quality while also staying within budget. Most importantly, it's evident that Southwest Texas Junior College has the students' interests in mind in providing an environment that encourages forward thinking and collaboration."



**We did it for them.
We can do it for you, too!**

Contact your Account Manager today to see how.

Office DEPOT
OfficeMax



bsd.officedepot.com/education



888-2-OFFICE (888-263-3423)



Visit us in store