

Two buildings at Eastern get some cutting-edge renovations

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WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University communication, kinesiology and physical education and psychology students were treated to two new buildings this semester.

The newly renovated Goddard Hall and Communications Building now provide cutting-edge space for the students to access the best curriculum possible.

Monday morning, Eastern President Elsa Núñez welcomed visitors to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the renovation projects at the Communications Building.

“Buildings like these bring people together in the best possible way,” Núñez said. “We are very grateful for these facilities.”

The total cost of construction for the two-phase project was \$21,541,803 and was funded by state-appropriated bond funds.

The project wrapped up ahead of schedule and under budget.

The first phase of the project in the Communications Building began



Eastern Connecticut State University senior Forest Rappe demonstrates how to use the Lumo Play, an interactive floor and wall game screen, during a tour of the school's Communications Building Monday. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

in July 2017 and concluded in July 2018.

Hazardous materials abatement was completed, as well as new space for the radio station, TV station, editing labs, computer labs, new department and faculty offices and new offices and a computer training room

for IT services.

New offices for workspace for media services were also added.

The second phase of the project began in May 2018 and concluded in June 2019.

This included a renovated space

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for the kinesiology and physical education department, new labs and observation rooms for the psychology department and faculty offices for both departments.

Both buildings were renovated to “as-new” conditions and were constructed in accordance with the Connecticut High Performance Building Standards.

Núñez was joined by construction and design leaders, such as Noel Petra, deputy commissioner for real estate and construction services in the state Department of Administrative Services.

“We need to support the education of the students here,” Petra said. “When they graduate, they’re going to become the next generation of Connecticut’s workforce.”

Finally, visitors were able to hear first-hand from students who are benefitting from the new space, like junior communications student Tyler Madden.

“Eastern offers students the ability to, during the day, have classes in this building, then take what you learn in this building and apply it to our TV newscasts on Thursday nights,” Madden said.

Madden is executive producer of Eastern’s student television newscast.

Follow Claire Galvin on Twitter - @CGalvinTC.



A group tours the TV studio in Eastern Connecticut State University's newly renovated Communications Building on Monday. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff