

International pharmaceutical company cures facility headache with high-tech Rx: *New training and development center caters to employee needs via modern technology systems*

The new Learning and Development Center features state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment, all controlled via the custom-designed podium (front, right), and on-line computer accessibility at every seat.



Client: Boehringer Ingelheim, Inc.

Project: Design and install audio/video system, computers, and cabling for high-tech Employee Learning and Development Center

Client Need

International pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim, Inc., had a headache. Despite operating in a modern, 800,000 square-foot manufacturing, laboratory and office facility in Columbus, Ohio, the company lacked adequate and appropriately placed space for training and development programs for its employees.

So, the leadership at BI prescribed a project to take the pain of an outdated, hard-to-access training room into a pro-learning, color-enhancing, modern, high-tech, and flexible space for all employees to learn better, more efficiently and with ease in the new spaces.

First Steps

BI management decided to renovate an efficient, easily-accessible space in their main building to house the new training facilities. "Hiring great contractors from day one made this project run smoothly. You can't beat experience, creativity, and reliability, and that's what our team brought to the table," explained Edward Kubiak, Project Manager for Boehringer Ingelheim's Capital Projects Division.

The new Learning and Development Center, as designed by BHDP, an architectural firm based in Cincinnati, Ohio, with offices in Columbus, would offer a classroom area, storage, a library, cubicles, a kitchen, a sound room, and a self-contained conference room they call the "egg" due to its shape and its purpose as a place where new thoughts and innovation can be hatched out of real team efforts. Turner Construction, the project's general contractor, also from Columbus, recommended that BI hire Integrated Building Systems to design and install the technology systems.

"We wanted IBS to give our new training space all the latest bells and whistles—projectors, screens, video, sound, and lighting," Kubiak said. "With these tools, we could offer top-notch training programs, record them, and even create our own in-house training DVDs for our 7 day, 3 shift a day work-force."



The Solution

Integrated Building Systems joined BI's project at the design phase—the ideal and most cost-effective time for technology planning, according to President Chip Chapman. “When we're involved from the beginning, we can make sure the infrastructure is right the first time, and that it will support the client's current and future needs.”

To bring the room to life, IBS installed two ceiling-mounted projectors/recorders, video screens, and cabling that all feed into a separate sound room. A mobile podium, custom-designed by IBS, houses controls for the high-tech room: a computer, a pull-out keyboard with a pop-up screen, and microphones.

IBS also installed desktop computers in kiosks in the open workspace with flip-tops to allow for laptop users to use the space as well, pop-up Ethernet and power plugs in the 3" thick conference table, and connected classroom laptops to give on-site staff easy access to information.

“Chip and his team are very knowledgeable and knew what we needed,” Kubiak said. “Our Learning and Development Center is a technology showplace because of their work.”

Challenges

Often in a renovation, IBS works through existing floors and ceilings to connect technology systems. At BI, however, the second-floor Learning and Development Center sat atop a locker room whose ceiling wouldn't allow access to the Center's floor. IBS solved the problem by recommending a four-inch raised floor system in the training room to allow space to install electrical and data connections.

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Integrated Building Systems wired the “egg” conference room within the Learning and Development Center for laptop computer use and installed wall-mounted monitors at either end.

The Results

Today, Boehringer Ingelheim's employees enjoy their state-of-the-art facility for individual and group training. An ante room hosts new employee orientation through a video-enhanced monitor which can be changed as needed for each session being conducted in the sound room. Even as employees walk by the Center, they catch up on the latest corporate news and daily events thanks to the large flat-panel television on display through a glass window wall.

“We knew that technology would bring this space to life, and we knew we needed experts on our team for this. Integrated Building Systems was a great partner,” Kubiak said.

To learn more about the solutions we've provided to our clients, click www.IBSwebsite.com

