



HAWORTH®

# Davenport Donald W. Maine College of Business Grand Rapids, MI

Case Study



For over 150 years, Michigan based Davenport University has been preparing its students for successful careers with its real-world-focused education programs. Emboldened by the success of a vision that resulted in a 110-percent increase in the university's graduation rate since 2015, Davenport has developed an even more dynamic vision for the future—one that will position the university among the ranks of the best colleges and universities in the Midwest by 2020.

Part of Davenport's plan to achieve this goal includes a state-of-the-art, donor-funded, \$15.5 million, 60,000 square-foot facility to house the Donald W. Maine College of Business on its main campus in the heart of West Michigan. The new building environment is the epitome of Davenport's real-world-education gold standard, with spaces and technology that enable students to experience what it's like to work and interact with colleagues in actual business settings, even before they graduate.



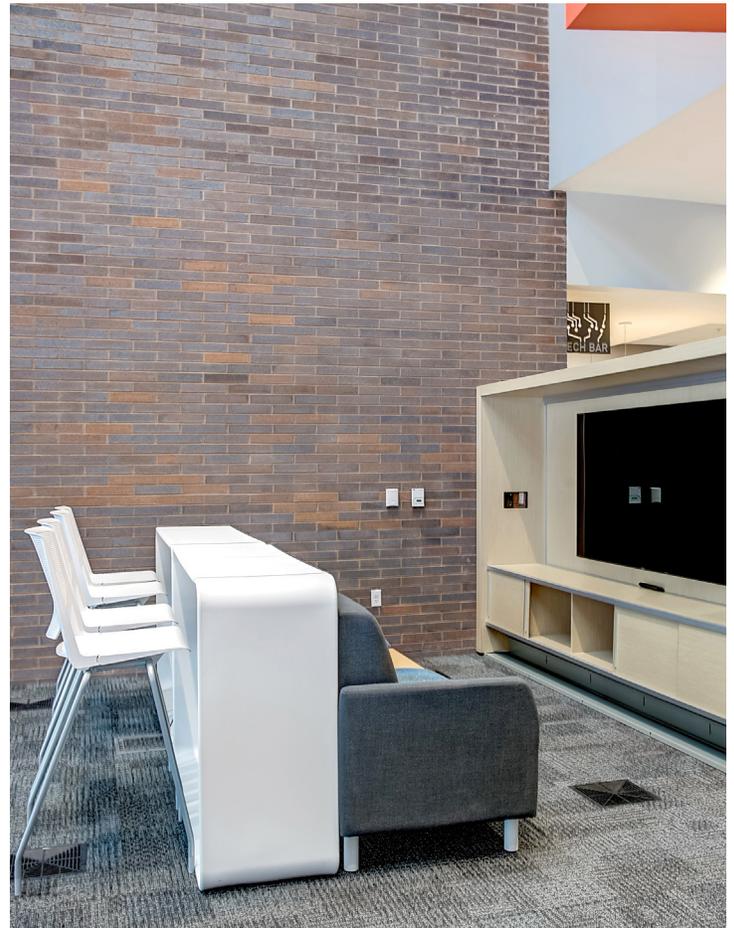


## Keeping up with Corporate America

Davenport's innovative approach to education offers students programs and real-life experiences that will prepare them for a successful career. For Davenport's business students, that means flexible classrooms that are in step with new learning styles and adaptable on a moment's notice, as well as working and studying environments that are modeled after those found in corporate America.

Today's modern organizations are adding a variety of spaces in the workplace. Rather than assigning each workspace to a particular person, organizations are now incorporating multi-functional, flexible spaces. Both formal and informal gathering areas are being used for connection, communication, collaboration, and innovation. Space to think, reflect, and work individually is also critical. And, the right technology is a must to keep it all flowing.

As the business world rethinks office space and the ways people work, Davenport looked to do the same for its work and study spaces to ensure the success of its business school graduates entering the workforce. With this future-focused approach, Davenport sought to set the trend in business education for other universities to follow into the future.





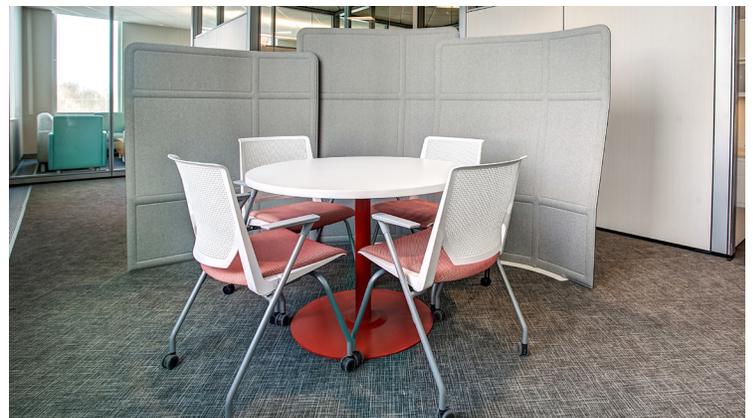
## The Hub of It All

Many of today's businesses are falling under a real estate crunch, being required to work with much smaller floorplans. However, by giving people access to a variety of spaces to work in, businesses have been finding ways to flourish in terms of productivity and innovation. And with mobile technology, that range of available spaces expands exponentially. People can work anywhere they want—inside the office or offsite—while staying connected and engaged.

With mobile devices and wi-fi, modern organizations all but have satellite offices in local coffee shops, libraries, airports, and parks. As of late, these spaces and similar environments have also been replicated in office floorplans, to give people comfortable, social places to connect with one another. People can hold small, informal meetings. Or, they can simply work individually without feeling completely isolated.

The Hub at the Donald W. Maine College of Business is that coffee shop environment for Davenport's students. The Hub provides more places to socialize and collaborate, just as modern office employees would have available to them. At the center, is an open coffee bar with tall tables that provide connectivity. Surrounding the atrium are three floors of enclaves, touchdown points, and meeting areas where students can have drop-in meetings and collaborative workspace.





## Open Access to Educators

Faculty offices at Davenport's new College of Business building presented a bit of a challenge. Most of the previous offices were traditional, with fixed walls. Some did not even have access to windows or daylight. However, the offices were larger than the ones Davenport was planning for the new space.

Initial input from the College of Business educators indicated they had a need for spaces that would allow them to focus, but also interact with students, staff, and other faculty members. To show professors how this could be accomplished in a smaller footprint, they were invited to Haworth to see similarly sized spaces in use. The design team also created mock-ups of the actual Davenport offices for the faculty to try out for themselves and provide feedback before designs were finalized.

In the end, offices did decrease in size, but they were made far more functional and adaptable—with glass panels throughout offering a more open feel and access to daylight. The faculty were able to choose from two design options, based on their requests. Both options were updated with newer, more mobile technology. Separate breakout rooms were added to encourage more interaction with students and colleagues, providing additional spaces for work, collaboration, small meetings, and educational feedback sessions. And of course, professors may also access the new spaces in the Hub.

## Connected Learning

Always determined to be at the forefront of technology, Davenport was one of the first colleges in the nation to offer online classes in 1999, followed by a full online degree program a year later. In keeping with that technological leadership, Davenport's new School of Business building needed to provide students a firsthand experience with some of the settings, tools, and related technology they will find in the workplace when they graduate.

The new School of Business offers wi-fi and connectivity to screens throughout the building, allowing students to do research, work online, and easily collaborate with one another on group projects, presentations, etc. In the classrooms, outdated projectors have been replaced by multi-screen TV visuals, offering a more customizable learning experience and ease for educators. And to support all this new technology is an on-site team of IT problem solvers.





## Educational Flexibility Now and for the Future

With more people working on-the-go, and entrepreneurship on the rise, the emerging workforce will be using more flexible workspaces—those that can adapt on a moment's notice to the needs of a variety of people, workstyles, and tasks. Davenport's new College of Business building was designed for change—change from day-to-day, semester-to-semester, as well as for the long-term.

Classrooms at Davenport's school of business now have multiple designs, ranging from traditional to casual environments that support the ways students want to be involved in their own education. Some settings, for example, have eliminated the professor's podium from the front of the classroom, bringing educators into the group and allowing for more personal interaction. And with a variety of easily moveable furnishings in many spaces, students and faculty can rearrange applications to their purpose or liking.

Pamela Imperato, Dean of the Maine College of Business, explains, "In many ways, it was this very conscious design to increase our flexibility, and also allow this organic kind of configuration and reconfiguration of the space, not by our design, but by the students' design."

Like designated training and meeting rooms in corporate America, classrooms also feature movable walls for future proofing and a huge return on investment. Large spaces are divided into rooms that may hold 20-40 people each. The moveable walls can easily come down later to transform the area into a hundred-person auditorium, if the need arises. Raised access flooring allows for additional flexibility by hiding wires and providing ready availability to technology that can be easily adapted—without a high cost—whenever spaces are redesigned.







## Business Education for the Real World

Like the real business world, Davenport University's Donald W. Maine College of Business is ever evolving. Poised to take on change at a moment's notice, the new building is not only a beautiful and comfortable learning environment that is reflective of current business environments, but also versatile enough to support Davenport's vision for years to come.

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*"There is a 'wow' factor when you walk into this building," said Imperato. "As you walk in, you feel like, 'Wow. This is where I study. This is where I'm getting my degree. This is where I'm going to learn today.' It is allowing the kinds of conversations, types of communication, the kinds of learning experiences that we want our students to have. Not only because of the quality of our instruction, but because of the environment that we provide at Davenport University."*

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### Customer Profile

Founded in 1866, Davenport is a private, non-profit university serving nearly 7,500 students, at campuses across Michigan and online. Davenport provides high academic quality, small class sizes, conveniently located campuses, faculty with real-world experience, and more than 80 dynamic undergraduate and graduate programs addressing in-demand careers.

Davenport University's Donald W. Maine College of Business prepares graduates for over 7,500 different careers. With its long-standing academic rigor, understanding of market trends, and ties to the community, the College of Business develops business leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives, equipping them for success in their desired careers—today and for the future.

### Haworth Product

- Compose®
- Openest®
- Very® chair
- Planes® table and easel
- Workware®
- Patterns™
- Hoop™ table
- Harbor Work Lounge® and ottoman
- Cappellini® Basket™ sofa
- Cappellini Hi Pad™ stool
- Cappellini Ribbon™ stool
- Haworth Collection™ Windowseat® lounge chair
- Cappellini Bong™ table
- Beside® Storage
- Reside®
- X Series®
- ToDo® lounge chair
- A Series®
- Poltrona Frau Archibald™ chair
- Masters Series®
- Adaptable Workspace®
- Suite®
- Zody®
- Intuity® benching
- Hop® table
- Belong®

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### Haworth Furniture Dealer

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Grand Rapids, MI

### General Contractor

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### Photographer

Kate Bruinsma – PBK Photography



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