



Wilmington University Opens New Campus

BY LAURIE BICK

IF YOU DRIVE ALONG Route 202/Concord Pike near the Delaware - Pennsylvania state line, you've likely seen Wilmington University's newest location. Serving northern New Castle County, Chester and Delaware Counties in Pennsylvania, WilmU's new Brandywine Valley site opened its doors to students on January 14th.

The 50,000 square foot, three-story building houses both administrative offices and 21 classrooms as well as four computer labs, a health lab for clinical nursing training and assessments, a library, an art room and state-of-the-art chemistry and biology laboratories. It also has its own food service café, an internet café and a campus book store. According to Dr. Erin DiMarco, Wilmington University senior vice president and chief operating officer, "The new facility can accommodate up to 1,000 students a day and provide them with a full university experience closer to home."

Wilmington University's 150 degree programs, from undergraduate through doctoral classes, are offered at the Brandywine Hundred site,

which puts emphasis on science and technology. Students benefit from the new learning commons – six classrooms that invite collaboration and enhance remote learning via livestream and high tech whiteboards.

"If students at our Dover location want to take advantage of a class or training session at the Brandywine building, they don't have to travel," says DiMarco. "There are six rooms on this campus that have livestream capability, which allows inclusion of students at other locations. If an instructor is teaching at Brandywine, it won't be unusual for the class to include remote student participation from Dover or our New Castle main campus. It's another convenience we can now offer."

The red brick, stone and glass construction of the Brandywine building reflects the character of the surrounding Brandywine Valley while it also retains WilmU's well-recognized red brick architectural signature. The building is filled with natural light from many windows that look out into the First State National Historical Park, and its LED lighting fixtures also provide light that mimics that of the outdoors. Between classes, students can walk the grounds,



which include woodland walking paths and a pond.

This is the first of three buildings approved and planned for the Brandywine campus. Two more buildings will be constructed, each up to 60,000 square feet. Throughout the planning process, the university sought out student opinion to discover the most desirable features to include at the new location. As a result, more classrooms were included in the building's design, and a new auditorium is planned for future construction.

While the New Castle location will remain the university's main campus and continue to house the majority of its administrative offices, the Brandywine campus is much more convenient to a large percentage of WilmU students in the Wilmington area. The majority of its administrative offices, the Brandywine campus will prove to be more convenient to a large percentage of students in the Wilmington area. ■

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