



# OGDEN COLLEGE HALL

Redefining “WELLness” and Sustainability at Western Kentucky University



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Western Kentucky University’s Ogden College Hall is the first educational laboratory in the United States to achieve WELL v2 Gold Certification by the International WELL Building Institute, maximizing the safety, health and overall wellness of the building’s occupants.

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Seeking to replace an outdated, 1960’s laboratory building, this student-focused design incorporated lab spaces, meeting spaces and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. By keeping health and wellbeing at the project forefront, the building now offers optimal air quality and maximizes the safety, health and overall wellness of building occupants. Informational displays throughout Ogden College Hall encourage students to consider the numerous benefits of healthy living and to serve as a teaching tool.

## WELL CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Stakeholders participated in an integrated design process that challenged the status quo and ultimately inspired the University’s decision to strive for WELL v2 certification. Features were evaluated, vetted and coordinated through the project administrator. The International Well Building Institute support was a key to ensuring the documentation and features were achieved.

## INNOVATION

The air quality design decisions that lead to not only meeting the air quality preconditions of a typical office but receiving air quality optimizations points in chemistry and biology laboratories was a true success for the project.

## CHALLENGES

Ogden College Hall faced several WELL challenges, including incorporating WELL-approved vending machine products, vetting the policies to ensure compliance and appropriate documentation was provided, validating the design for the lighting, and many more. The stakeholders worked together closely to achieve WELL certification.

## RESULTS

The goal is to recruit students to WKU’s STEM program. This will be tracked and monitored closely over the next few years.

**COST: \$40,000,000**

**SIZE: Four-story, 82,889 square foot building**

**RANKINGS: WELL v2 Gold Certified, LEED Gold Certified**

**PROJECT COMPLETED: 2018**

Ogden College Hall holds over 30 laboratories for biology, chemistry, physics and astronomy classes, along with student advisory offices, a 300-seat auditorium and the office suite for the Ogden College of Science and Engineering.