**Allied Health and Sciences at Firelands | Phase 1  
Bowling Green State University**

Boldly marking the northern entry to Bowling Green State University Firelands, this project transforms a primary edge of a compact campus into a welcoming thoroughfare for science education. To meet the increasing need for nursing, technology, and engineering professionals, the College increased their allied health, technology, and science programs with state of the art science laboratories and student-centered collaboration space. In addition to 17,000 SF of new construction, the College challenged the design team to utilize existing resources and to convert an underutilized high bay machine shop at the north end of campus into 30,000 SF of additional space.

With the primary campus access and majority of student parking on the north side of campus, the existing North Building, with its indirect and unclear entry point, presented a barrier to the heart of campus. The Allied Health & Sciences addition opens up access to the campus core, marking entry and celebrating a primary portal into campus. As this circulation path cuts through the new health and science programs, it facilitates both social and academic engagement with varied public spaces that occur along it length. Chance encounters between students and educators are encouraged with seating areas while collaboration rooms promote more intense and formal collaboration. Along the corridor, windows provide glimpses into the laboratories engaging student through ‘science on display.’ This circulation route extends to the student center and the campus core, connecting the sciences and student life to create a vibrant community for the science programs.

The building is organized around a series of masonry planes running the length of the building on either side of the addition, and a central plane stretching deep into the existing building to the student center. The central plane marks both entry on the exterior as well as internal circulation as its expression and materiality continues on the interior. Bathed in natural light by slopped glazing along its length, the central plane is carved away to reveal a seating bench and a place for informal collaboration. At the building perimeter, the side planes are lifted above the first floor. Their expression is continued on the interior giving a sense of boundlessness as they seem to effortlessly hover at the building face. The east-west planes tie into the adjacent building in color and pattern, while the north-south planes use light brick of the south campus, accentuating the push into the campus core. These planes employ a stack bond pattern and zinc trim to further differentiate them from the surrounding red brick facades and give them a machined looked alluding to the technology and science programs inside.

From the exterior, the circulation spine projects out of the spaces contained by the planes culminating in a glass entry and stair. While the first floor opens up for entry, the second floor opens to a gathering space providing views to the campus arboretum. The stair wraps around another plane, this time perforated metal lit from within. The metallic glowing plane of the stair acts as a beacon, announcing the north campus portal.

The Allied Health and Sciences building uses form and material to connect engaged learning with social gathering. It creates a vital link that unifies the campus, bringing students to the heart of the college.