

Project Case Study:

Higher Education – Community College



Project Name Hinds Community College

Project Location Raymond, MS

Project Size Lobby area with six seating areas

Building Type Wellness Complex

Project Team Norix Group, Inc.
Hinds Community College



Product List Sierra Series Seating and Tables
Hondo® Series Cube

CASE STUDY

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DESCRIPTION:

Hinds Community College is a higher education institution in Raymond, Mississippi, that is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Established in 1917, Hinds is the largest community college in the state with approximately 32,000 students in academic, career/technical, workforce, secondary and adult education programs each year.

The college is the fourth-largest institution of higher education in Mississippi, with students from over 70 counties in the state participating in the school's 170 programs across six locations.

Former students include current Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, retired Pro Bowl football player Leon Lett and country singer Faith Hill.



OVERALL PROJECT GOAL / PHILOSOPHY

At its main campus in Raymond, Hinds maintains a Wellness Complex for use by students, employees and the public. It is the mission of the complex to provide opportunities for its community "to engage in on-campus activities that promote healthier lifestyles and a better quality of life through exercise and education," according to the complex's website.

The facility includes a lobby where students can study, socialize and meet with friends between classes. The lobby includes six seating areas, nine computer kiosks, and a Wii station – all of which are available for use during open hours.

The existing chairs in these seating areas began to break down and required frequent repair, prompting the school to seek out new furniture that was better suited for the environment.

Furnishings Goal: The complex needed durable seating and table solutions that could endure the hard-use by the students who aren't always "gentle" on furnishings.

Aesthetic Goal: The seating and tables needed to be extremely durable but not institutional in appearance. The school also wanted furniture that was casual, had personality and that fit in with the surrounding campus.

Functional Goal: The furniture needed to be easy to clean and sanitize, and allow for floor maintenance by staff when needed.

Secure/Safe Goal: Since college students have a tendency to be rambunctious at times, the furnishings needed to be structurally robust, tamper resistant, and remain stationary.

SELECTION PROCESS:

In the fall of 2010, the Hinds Housing Department was in the process of building two new dormitories which required furniture solutions. The department invited vendors – including Norix – on campus to showcase their products in the Wellness Complex gymnasium and allowed students to vote on their favorite products.

Hinds Wellness Complex Director Donald Poole, knowing that he would soon need to replace the seating in the lobby area, met with consultative sales specialist Doug Renfrow.

“We were not happy with the previous furniture. We had to start making major repairs less than a year after buying it,” Poole said. “We were spending more money on maintenance than it would cost to replace it with furniture that would actually work for us.”

Renfrow recommended Norix’s Sierra Series seating for its structural integrity. Sierra chairs feature seat cushions made of non-absorbent vinyl, rotationally molded over tubular steel frames, with end arms made of 1 3/4” thick butcher-block oak. A single chair weighs over 75 lbs. The seating is available with either open or solid arms and in a variety of seat colors.

Norix provided Poole a sample of Sierra, which he presented to his supervisors. “After seeing the sample, I was confident in Sierra,” Poole said.



“You can’t tell the difference between the furniture that was installed over a year ago and the furniture that was recently installed. It is holding up amazingly well.”

THE RESULT:

Hinds Community College selected Sierra chairs, loveseats, end tables – plus Hondo® Series Cubes – for their lobby area. The first installation of furniture occurred in the summer of 2012 and included products for four seating areas.

The college later purchased furniture for the additional two seating areas which was installed in September 2013.

“You can’t tell the difference between the furniture that was installed over a year ago and the furniture that was recently installed. It is holding up amazingly well,” Poole said. “It’s doing everything I expected it to.”



Norix Blog

ABOUT NORIX GROUP:

For more than 30 years Norix has provided secure furnishings and fixtures for every application. The product line has expanded to include industries and environments such as public safety, behavioral healthcare, transportation, educational institutions, commercial facilities and military installations. All furniture is designed for safety, security and extreme durability. Norix intensive-use furniture is extraordinary by design, surpassing industry standards for strength, safety and long-term performance. The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL., with sales representatives and dealers throughout the United States. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments, a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators, and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments. For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit: www.norix.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hinds Community College - <http://www.hindscc.edu/>

Hinds Community College Wellness Complex - http://www.hindscc.edu/departments/wellness_complex/default.aspx