

# Tampa Bay Ingenuity

NEW CAMPUS INCORPORATES  
NOVEL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

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hen the various decision makers involved in the construction of Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's)

Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, Florida, met to discuss the bold undertaking, much thought went into creating each aspect of the 311,000-square-foot education complex. This contemplative approach was especially true when it came to constructing a campus that incorporated distinctive design principles.

Visitors are greeted by floor-to-ceiling windows on every floor that maximize views of serene waters. Glass markers are used to note formulas and ideas in study

rooms overlooking the courtyard. Below, a group of students initiates a quick game of touch football while others stroll past. Inside, students crisscross on their way to the gym, café, and class. The atmosphere is both relaxed and energy-charged, exactly as the architects hoped it would be.

Indoors and out, examples abound of how the architects incorporated biophilic design into the new campus. Biophilic design reinforces appreciation of one's environmental surroundings while creating a productive and healthy environment. Elements include natural lighting and ventilation, as well as natural landscape features. Research shows that people who study or work in

these more natural environments tend to experience decreased stress, enhanced creativity, and accelerated recovery from illness.

According to the architect's project description, three overarching principles were incorporated—prospect, refuge, and mystery. To fulfill the prospect ideal, the complex was built to provide “unimpeded view over distance for surveillance and planning.” The idea of refuge introduced spaces that allow for “withdrawal from intense conditions or the main flow of activity in which the individual is protected from behind and overhead.” The element of mystery was achieved through “partially obscured views or other sensory devices

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# NSU Florida



NOVA SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

TAMPA BAY  
REGIONAL CAMPUS



*Three design aspects were incorporated to provide the optimal educational environment—prospect, refuge, and mystery.*





*A feature art installation pays homage to Tampa; the Courtney Campbell Bridge; NSU's new facility in Clearwater, Florida; and the life native to the Tampa Bay area. The artwork further expresses themes related to community, connectedness, conservation, health and wellness, and research.*

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that entice the individual to travel deeper into the environment.”

### **A Haven for Students**

The campus, which officially opened in August, is earning rave reviews from KPCOM students and faculty and staff members alike regarding everything from the classrooms and labs to the technology and aesthetic charms of the building and grounds.

Tying into the themes of prospect, refuge, and mystery, the campus also features a nature trail for those seeking escape and personal reflection, meditation/relaxation rooms, a unique third-floor stairs study area, and a two-story fitness center. It also houses some of the most progressive classrooms, labs, and technology, all of which were designed to prepare and produce the best osteopathic graduates possible.

“It’s inevitable that we will be one of the most exciting medical hubs in the world,” said Kenneth Johnson, D.O., FACOOG, executive associate dean of the additional site for the Dr. Kiran C. Patel

College of Osteopathic Medicine (KPCOM) at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus. “That’s really the vision.”

In terms of KPCOM-specific amenities, the campus features a 7,840-square-foot osteopathic principles and practice lab, as well as two large lecture rooms that each seat 250 students. A research lab with a seating capacity of 20 and a 3-D virtual lab that can fit 120 students are also central features. Additionally, KPCOM students benefit from the following facilities.

- 3-D printing research lab
- 3-D virtual lab (104-seat capacity)
- 18 small-group learning rooms
- 11 standardized patient exam rooms
- emergency medical services classroom (30-seat capacity)
- histology lab (96-seat capacity)
- leisure-space room outfitted with various lounge seating options, a pool table, a foosball table, and a ping-pong table, as well as a small kitchen area where

students can store food in refrigerators

- robotics lab with 14 exam rooms
- team-based learning room (102-seat capacity)
- virtual reality research and development lab
- virtual tech-collaboration room (56-seat capacity)

“Osteopathic medicine has a long and colorful history in the United States that has allowed the graduation of holistic physicians who consider the minds, bodies, and spirits of their patients,” said Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S.<sup>4</sup>, who has served as KPCOM dean since February 2015. “To have an additional campus producing about 150 more attuned and kind physicians is not only a benefit for Florida, but also for our country.”

### **Curriculum Overhaul and Technology Upgrades**

The additional KPCOM site at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus is just one of the many exciting changes that have been unveiled from a college-specific perspective.



While the new campus was being planned and constructed, a curriculum overhaul and technology enhancements were being implemented at both campuses. (See related technology article on page 14 for details.)

“This year’s freshman class has the benefit of a reordered curriculum. This curriculum has truncated the basic ‘Basic Sciences’ into four months and entwined the remainder of the basic sciences into clinical sciences. This will allow students to learn informa-

tion in a context (e.g., cardiac physiology in cardiac medicine and pathology of the renal system in renal medicine). There will also be more patient-contact opportunities in both years one and two to help students ‘put a face’ on the disease processes they are learning,” Wallace said.

“The addition of BodyViz technology allows anatomy and histology to be taught in a digitalized fashion, while the addition of the Lecturio system of board review within the

curriculum helps students think of information in a board-review style as part of their studies,” she added. “All of this is accompanied by the addition of updated robotic instruction in everything from cardiac arrest to labor and delivery.”

The KPCOM has come a long way since it became the 15th U.S. osteopathic medical school in 1979 and graduated its inaugural class of 35 students in 1985. The college, which currently offers nine academic degree programs



*Indoors and out, examples abound of how the architects incorporated progressive design principles into the new campus.*

and seven graduate certificate programs, is poised to become one of the largest osteopathic medical schools in the nation with the additional KPCOM site in Tampa Bay.

“The KPCOM program at the Tampa Bay Regional Campus came together as a result of all of us at the KPCOM’s Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus who have been dedicated to this task for two years. This includes those involved in accreditation, technology, and tele-transmission of lectures to those involved in the hiring and credentialing of a new faculty, to name just a few,” Wallace said. “Everyone at the KPCOM pulled together and created a product of which we all are very proud.” □

