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BWA Architecture + Planning to Design Salus University Library Renovation

From Traditional Library to Learning Commons

(Philadelphia, PA) Salus University, a national leader in health sciences education, has selected BWA Architecture + Planning to design the renovation of its academic library. The traditional library will be transformed into a modern learning commons that operates as both a media-rich resource center and the hub of the University's Elkins Park campus located at 8360 Old York Road.

Joining BWA's team for the renovation project are Sera Engineering; Komita Design LLC; Metropolitan Acoustics LLC; Ann Rothman, PE, and Becker & Frondorf.

The existing library occupies approximately 11,000 square feet on two floors of a building originally constructed for offices. Plans for the new learning commons include a help desk/service center, quiet group study areas, a welcoming common area for socializing and studying, and a small café. The design will also focus on improving the connection between the two floors, both visually and functionally.

"The renovation of the library into a learning resource center is just the first installment of many updates at Salus to provide our students with an optimum learning experience and environment as well as to keep pace with the rapidly changing health science educational landscape," said Salus president, Dr. Michael H. Mittelman. With this project BWA adds to its extensive higher education portfolio, which includes work for the University of Pennsylvania, St. Joseph's University, Bryn Mawr College, Drexel University and Swarthmore College, among others. "I'm excited by the prospect of transforming the Salus library into a space that is not only more functional, but more visually exciting," says BWA Principal Richard Winston. "Our goal is to create a place that really draws people in."

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of 13 post-graduate degree programs in health science and blindness and low vision. Salus operates four clinical facilities in the Philadelphia area that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.

## **ABOUT BWA**

Established in 1988, BWA Architecture + Planning is an award-winning Philadelphia architecture firm with a strong portfolio of educational, residential, cultural, commercial and historic preservation projects. More information at <a href="http://bwa-architects.com">http://bwa-architects.com</a>.