

Wanted: Student input for redesigned library space; using the experts in your own backyard

We had an opportunity to redesign the space on the first floor. Since we wanted the space to be attractive to our students (engineering, creative arts, sports sciences, agriculture, natural resources, design, and education), we needed student input. Dr. Cindy Beacham, Chair of the Division of Interior Design at WVU came in to help design a short survey and conduct three focus groups to gather information. The results definitely made an impact on decisions about the space. Using the expertise of one of our faculty members made this part of the project a big success.

Mary Strife , Director, Evansdale Library, West Virginia University and Dr. Cindy Beacham (by video recording), Interior Design Program Chair, Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Design.

Survey question 1: What would you like to change in the Evansdale Library to make it a more inviting learning & research environment? And what kind of collaborative or learning space do you need in the this library?

Survey question 2: Are there types of software or technologies not currently offered that you need to do your academic work?

Survey question 3: Do you have further comments or suggestions about how we can improve our library environment?

Focus group question #1
How do you currently use the library?

Focus group question #2
What would you suggest to improve the current library and make it more usable and enticing for you?

Focus group question #3
What characteristics would you like to see in a facility that would become the "heart" of the Evansdale campus?



What students asked for and got	What we we not able to do	Future?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible seating and tables • White boards • Comfortable seats • Color • Cafe seating • More computers • More study rooms • Carpet • Display options for projects • Healthier food • Better entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No coffee shop • Not enough space near computers • Software used for specific majors • Benches & tables in front of the building • 24 hrs • Free printing • Green roof • Closer to PRT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the lower and second levels for updating • Work with Facilities to re-do outside space • Upgrade electrical and data connections

The focus groups and survey were a success because (of):

Dr. Beacham's time, effort, experience, and pleasant manner

We supplied pizza, cookies, fruit, water, and soda for the participants

We listened to what the students said and asked more questions

There were no wallflowers in the room. All the students participated

I moved out of my comfort zone

All of this and more helped us come up with space that the students can use!