

CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENT PLAN



The Classroom Improvement Plan sets standards for the 48 general-purpose classrooms located on campus, of which 18 have been renovated, to ensure modern, flexible and effective environments for teaching and learning. The renovated classrooms are designed to support new methods of pedagogy, such as problem-based active learning, and access to the rich array of available technological resources. In 2003, the Classroom Improvement Committee was formed, with a charge to develop and implement a prioritized plan to modernize each of the College's general classrooms. Initiated by Information Services, this faculty-chaired committee is composed of faculty, staff and one student. The committee engaged Ellenzweig Associates (Cambridge, MA) to work with the committee, Physical Facilities, and the campus community to develop the plan, which was completed and implemented in 2004.

The Classroom Improvement Plan includes recommendations for room layouts and seating, furniture, classroom media, room design, acoustics, lighting, power and data, and accessibility considerations. A method for prioritizing renovations was developed, and the College began renovating classrooms through funding from grants and donors. The plan has helped guide other projects, such as the recently renovated Science Center at New London Hall. The Classroom Improvement Committee provides a forum for discussions on new technologies for inclusion in classrooms, such as interactive whiteboards, and the continued prioritization of room renovations.

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

- A design palette of furniture and finishes was created for each academic building to ensure harmony between rooms and with the architectural style and age of the building. Of 48 general classrooms, 18 have undergone a total renovation, including technology, furniture, lighting and window treatments.
- Due to funding constraints in recent years, the Classroom Improvement Committee's efforts have been limited. The Committee has recently been reconvened to help design a more cost-effective style of renovation and to prioritize future work.
- Beautifully framed, historic photos of the College are located in renovated classrooms, and these add a sense of history to each space. These images have sparked the interest of the campus community and the donors who funded the renovations.

*For more information, contact Chris Penniman, Director of Instructional Technology,
at x2381 or cepen@conncoll.edu.*