(Constructing) DU IMPACT 2025: The Community Commons & First Year Residence Hall

TWO BUILDINGS, ONE UNIFIED PHILOSOPHY

Although spatially separate, the Community Commons and Residence Hall strive to inspire a sense of belonging and navigational capital. The design reflects this shared philosophy through the flowing path that connects and facilitates movement between the two buildings.

SENSE OF BELONGING

Belonging is a fundamental human need, and critical to the success of our students. Belonging leads to resilience, persistence, and academic success.

NAVIGATIONAL CAPITAL

The information, resources, and relationships that allow one to successfully navigate their environment.

KEY FACTS

Opening Date: Fall 2020
Square feet: 132,000 sf
Owner: Lili Rodriguez, Vice Chancellor, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence
Architect of Record: Anderson Mason Dale
DU Architect: Mark Rodgers
Contractor: Saunders Construction Incorporated

PROGRAM VISION

The First Year Residence Hall is designed to house 500 first-year students, and a series of campus-serving programs. Developing a sense of belonging is the key principle driving the design of this residence hall. The size of the “pods” is ideal for skill-building centered on dialogue, conflict resolution, and wellness.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AT DIFFERENT SCALES

Spaces that accommodate social and educational gatherings of different sizes, such as common rooms in every pod, a bridge connecting the two wings (“treehouse”), a multipurpose room, and a courtyard that can accommodate an entire class of 1500 students.

The entire ground floor will house departments and services that will be accessible to all undergraduates:
- Honors Program
- Housing and Residential Education
- Pioneer Leadership Program
- Living Learning Communities
- Pet Wash Station

Transformative Direction 1: Students Learning and Leading in a Diverse and Global 21st Century

Students Learning and Leading in a Diverse and Global 21st Century

Navigational capital and sense of belonging are mutually reinforcing. Together, they create the environmental conditions in which students can live, learn, and thrive.

In order to attract all constituencies, community members can expect:

- Commuter friendly spaces and storage
- Designated space for graduate students
- Designated space for student government leadership and student org planning
- Designated space for faculty
- A variety of staff educators and offices
- A Gourmet Kitchen
- A market place with many, diverse food offerings
- Meetings spaces for groups as small as 6 to as many as 350
- A rooftop deck with drink and food options