

CREATIVE COLLABORATION EARNS TOP GRADE AT WHEATON COLLEGE

CASE STUDY

When Wheaton College, a highly-ranked private institution, opened a new Science Center, Graebel was instrumental in the transition. Encountering unique situations, the team achieved successful results by being proactive and employing creative techniques.



Photos courtesy of Wheaton College, Media Relations Office

Wheaton's commitment to environmental stewardship earned the college a Gold LEED rating for its new Science Center.

As part of its commitment to investigative research and faculty-student co-action, Wheaton built a \$62 million Science Center encompassing 128,000 square feet. The impressive facility provides formal and informal educational areas, customized laboratories and faculty research zones. Additional features include an interactive atrium museum, greenhouse, astronomical observatory and large lecture hall.

THE CHALLENGE

Eight academic departments were slated for the new facility, including biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, applied health sciences, geology, computer science and health professions. Originally segregated across three buildings, the group would be consolidated within the newly-designed space.



The lower level, with a view of the atrium, includes additional exhibit areas and office space.

Special planning would be required before the move could begin, as each department had amassed a tremendous amount of inventory and sensitive equipment. Multiple interviews were conducted to address individual requests and concerns.

(See reverse for solution and results)

THE CUSTOMER

Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL)
www.wheaton.edu | Established in 1860

Wheaton is a co-ed Christian liberal arts college with 2400 undergraduates and 500 graduate students from 50 states, 50 countries and 55+ denominations. The institution offers 40 majors focused on the arts, literature, social sciences and natural sciences. According to *The Princeton Review*, Wheaton is one of the country's best institutions for undergraduate education, as featured in the *The Best 373 Colleges, 2011* guide. The *2011 Fiske Guide to Colleges* also names Wheaton on its list of 44 "Best Buy" colleges and universities, based on quality of academic offerings in relation to the cost of attendance.

PROJECT SCOPE

Consolidate and relocate eight departments from multiple campus buildings and an off-site storage facility to the new state-of-the-art Science Center.

PROJECT GOALS

Systematically relocate each department, working closely with the college-appointed project consultant, and fulfill each department's individual relocation needs and special requests. To complete all of the relocations on time, according to estimated costs and without impact to the materials moved.

WHY GRAEBEL

Wheaton College was already familiar with Graebel, as the company had successfully relocated multiple faculty offices in recent years. Specific to the Science Center, school officials were impressed with Graebel's timely response and competitive proposal, and its representatives' commitment to complete the complex, massive project within one month while classes were out of session. Wheaton College also chose Graebel because its employees are extensively background screened and have been trained to expertly perform commercial relocations.

“It’s obvious that Graebel is well-versed in collegiate moves. They worked cohesively with our project consultant, faculty members and students to complete the huge task we set before them.”

- Paul McCallum, project manager, Wheaton College facility development department

THE SOLUTION

Graebel worked closely with Jim Graham, a consultant appointed by the college, to arrange the relocation details. An efficient day by day schedule was required to move each of the eight departments and offsite storage facility within the restrictive timeframe.

Pat O’Donnell, project manager at Graebel Commercial Services, summarized. “Jim had been onsite for months compiling the necessary background information. He introduced our team to the individual faculty members, and we collaborated and drew up the most efficient and cost-effective plan of action.”

With student assistance, each department packed its respective office files and supplies. Color-coded identification labels were employed for accurate delivery within the new Science Center.

Highly-sophisticated equipment, including laser tables and 500-pound sub-zero freezers, required special handling techniques. Each lab also had hundreds of drawers filled with equipment such as glass beakers and test tubes. To safely transfer the fragile cargo, Graebel built a custom ramp bridge to reduce the load angle into the trucks.

In some instances, sheer physical strength was required by the crew. A 20-foot flow tank, located on the second floor at origin, had to be manually carried – by eight men – down a staircase and through an auditorium, due to its extreme size. At the new facility, it was carefully hoisted down a staircase to its new home on the lower level.

Ranked #1 in the *HRO Today* Relocation Baker’s Dozen - Two Consecutive Years, 2010 and 2011.
Thinking Ahead. Moving You Forward. Graebel Will Keep Your Relocation Needs Ahead of the Curve.



The exhibit area include the Wheaton infamous ‘Perry Mastadon’, whose skeletal remains were unearthed near the college in 1963.



In addition to classrooms and teaching labs, the facility includes a multi-story interactive museum, greenhouse, and observatory.

Photos courtesy of Wheaton College, Media Relations Office

Graebel also manually transferred industrial-size gurneys used for medical research, and giant boulders and rock samples for the geological department.

An associate professor had planned to personally transport a tank of rare fish cultures, used in ecological and genetic research. After she witnessed the strictly performed precautionary measures applied by Graebel, she asked the team for assistance. The biological samples were safely delivered by Graebel to the new lab without incident.

THE RESULT

For three weeks, with typically 10 crew members onsite, Graebel transferred office items, laboratory equipment and artifacts. More than 75 truckloads were required. The crew also made regular trips to an off-site storage facility to retrieve museum exhibit items and rare animal mounts.

Paul McCallum, project manager for Wheaton College, was clearly satisfied with the results. “The entire project was done on time and under budget. Each aspect was well-organized, which made the process enjoyable for everyone.”

