

**C A S E S T U D Y**



**CLIENT**

Kettering University

**LOCATION**

Flint, Michigan

**PROJECT COST**

\$400,000

**PROJECT SIZE**

7,000 SF

**COMPLETION DATE**

May 2013

**PROJECT DELIVERY**

Design Build

SNAPSHOT

## Re-imagining Relaxation

Kettering University commissioned FUNchitecture to design a new, vibrant social hub for its students in the lower level of its student center on campus. Kettering Student Government President John Oliver said the project is a great step forward for students. "While BJ's lounge (the current student lounge) is in a central location on campus, it currently lacks the facilities to make it a useful area for students," Oliver explained. "I think students will benefit from the added sense of community that will come with the new social space in the renovated lounge," he added. The goal of the project is to turn the space, currently featuring dark brick, drab, dated carpeting and heavy, clunky old wooden furniture into an inviting and technology-rich social venue at Kettering University. "Our primary goal is to create a welcoming space for students to relax and socialize among themselves, and with faculty and staff members," said Betsy Homsher, Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students.

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The 7,000-square-foot project will transform two Campus Center spaces into an open, mixed use venue for studying and entertainment. Plans include:

- Gaming tables;
- Study and meeting spaces for individuals and groups;
- Café for socializing;
- Media area for movies, sports and entertainment;
- A 24/7 schedule to enhance student life; and
- Food!

“The cafe will feature late afternoon to late night snacks and beverages,” Homsher said. Menu items will include pizzas, burgers and other student favorites. “One of the best parts of this renovation will be the Wi-Fi and the convenience of lots of electrical charging stations so our tech-savvy students can relax and enjoy themselves anytime in this digital environment.”

Architect Shannon Easter White of Flint’s FUNchitecture is currently completing the design. FUNchitecture employs an inclusive approach to space planning and used a variety of student input gathering methods for the design of this project. “The furniture was selected by B-Section students during a Sit & Stroll last fall when vendors showcased their wares and students voted,” Homsher said. “We selected the colors, furniture and carpeting based upon students’ preferences. Colors are vibrant and natural light will pour into the space.” Student surveys were also employed in the information gathering with nearly 300 student responses contributing to the design and “wish list” for the space. Through this method of inclusive design, the project features many of the things that students have been waiting a long time for and a coveted space that the students can be proud of!