

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR BISHOP NOLL INSTITUTE

STREAM Lab honored for education architecture, interior design

BY ERIN CISZCZON
Northwest Indiana Catholic

HAMMOND – The Fall 2020 Awards of Excellence edition of Learning By Design magazine features a host of newly completed, top-notch educational facilities from across the United States. Featured learning spaces range from early childhood and elementary school environments, middle schools, high schools, specialized education and institutions of higher education. Among those mentioned in the publication is the Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math (STREAM) Lab at Bishop Noll Institute.

“Wow, I think this is a testament to all the hard work our ‘STREAM Team’ did!” said principal Lorenza Pastrick. “They took the responsibility of designing a space for 21st Century skills seriously and placed emphasis on researching and investigating learning options to meet the changing needs of those skills,” she said.

BNI unveiled its \$1.45 million STREAM Lab during a grand opening last November. The lab provides student space that includes a learning studio and design lab with flexible seating for collaborative work; a makerspace for hands-on tasks and creating prototypes based on original designs; and a prototype studio to build models and use larger equipment to build final products for display. In addition, there is also access to multiple 3-D printers and 30 computers with AutoCAD engineering software.

In total, 56 projects



The Bishop Noll STREAM Lab, designed by the Wightman architecture firm, received an Award of Excellence from Learning by Design magazine, selected from more than 55 projects from around the country. The lab includes a learning studio and design lab, with flexible seating allowing students to work collaboratively; a makerspace for more hands-on work and creating prototypes based on original designs; and a prototype studio to build models and use larger equipment to build final products for display. (Photos provided)

were juried by Learning By Design on the basis of being innovative; incorporating sustainable construction and operational features; appropriately using and applying interior design elements; featuring floor plans and physical space design that enhance Next Generation Learning pedagogies; using good planning and functional design strategies; and meeting the needs of the communities they serve.

Twelve well-designed spaces were bestowed top awards. Four of the best projects received Grand Prize Awards, four were designated for Citation of Excellence Awards, and four received Honorable Mention Awards. Wightman, the architectural design firm hired to help design the lab at Bishop Noll, received an Honorable Mention for the facility.



Bishop Noll students taking courses in the school's STREAM Lab have access to multiple 3D printers and 30 computers with AutoCAD engineering software.

“The learning environments and opportunities Bishop Noll Institute is offering to its students are truly among the best in the nation,” said Greg Monberg, director of architecture with Wightman and a Noll alumnus.

“There are a lot of great features in the STREAM Lab including dedicated spaces for small group

work, instruction, design, prototyping and testing,” continued Monberg. “The spiral stair connecting to the old spectator seating area provides an easy connection between the labs and breakout areas, which can be supervised from one space without students having to go out into the corridor. The makerspace and prototyping labs espe-

cially allow students to build, test, and tinker with the projects they design in a way that wasn't possible in the previous spaces available.”

Bishop Noll senior Alejandra Castellanos, a STREAM Team member, said she loves working in the lab she helped design.

“The large open space makes it easy to work in and gives us access to the equipment and materials we need when completing projects. I always knew that the lab was going to come out great - it's a breath of fresh air that helps modernize the school - but I have to say it really did come out even better than I imagined,” she said. “As soon as students walk in the room, they feel excited to get to work, promoting productivity, creativity and innovation.”

BNI president Paul Mullaney said the administration at the high school is very pleased that the students can benefit from learning in a nationally recognized facility. He pointed out that as beautiful as the space is, it is much more than aesthetically appealing – it is a pure example of form following function.

“We are grateful to all those who contributed to this process, especially our stakeholders whose generosity for our Ignite & Inspire campaign funded the project, along with some assistance from the Diocese of Gary, and to our Building & Grounds Committee members who helped us stay on task and within budget through the process,” he said. “The greatest reward in all of this is seeing our students’

fervor for wanting to learn and achieve when they step into that facility.”

Mullaney said Pastrick had the vision for the room, and the faculty STREAM Team she assembled was able to identify the functionality needed in the STREAM curriculum to achieve desired student outcomes. The STREAM Team collaborated with the design team at Wightman, and the partners at Wightman “knocked it out of the park,” he added.

The lab design is STEM coming to life, said Pastrick. Bishop Noll currently runs four courses out of the STREAM Lab space and it is utilized by more than 160 students each day, she said. For example, while computer programming meets in the mezzanine, an engineering course takes place downstairs.

“I think our space was intentionally designed to constantly add STEM courses and to grow with our program. This year we kicked off a Biomedical Science course. We also intend on using this space to support our STEM extracurriculars, including robotics, coding, and more,” Pastrick said.

Learning By Design is an award-winning publication that circulates three times a year to 50,000-plus leaders and decision makers at all levels of education – from early childhood through high schools to college and university and specialized vocational education level institutions. To review all Fall 2020 projects, visit learningbydesignmagazine.com.



Leary's

carpets & floors, inc.

7220-22 Calumet Avenue
Hammond, Indiana 46324

(219) 932-2384
Fax (219) 932-2409

CLEANUP AND RESTORATION

24 Hour Emergency Service

- Fire, water and Mold Cleanup and Restoration
- Trained, Uniformed Professionals
- Trusted by over 600 Insurance companies
- Serving America Since 1967

219-922-9300

of Western Lake County
Independently Owned and Operated

SERVPRO
Fire & Water - Cleanup & Restoration

Like it never even happened.™

Save the Date

NOVEMBER 29, DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20
2:00-3:00PM CENTRAL ON ZOOM



THE GIFTS OF VISITATION:
*Spiritual Encounters with
Mary and Elizabeth*

Please join us for
**A VIRTUAL VOCATION
ADVENT RETREAT**
- HOSTED BY THE SISTER'S COLLABORATIVE -
AGES 18 TO 40

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.poorhandmaids.org>
or contact Peggy Gurnsey 219-962-8626 or Sr. Connie Bach 574-340-6409

