



Vocational/Industrial
Arts Facility
New Construction

**MCCOOL CARLSON
GREEN ARCHITECTS**

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Michael P. Carlson
Principal Architect
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DESIGN TEAM

Bob Bechtold,
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Project Manager

Dr. George Copa,
Educational Planner
Collins Construction,
General Contractor

OWNER/CLIENT

Matanuska-Susitna Borough
School District
Palmer, AK

George Troxel, Superintendent
907/252-0400

Type of School and
Grades Served:
High School, 9-12

Capacity: 500 students

Size of Site: 30 acres

Area of Building:
76,550 square feet

Volume of Building:
2.8 million cubic feet

Space per Student:
153 square feet

Cost per Student: \$31,600

Square Foot Cost: \$206

Cost of Construction:
\$15.8 million

Total Project Cost: \$18.9 million

Contract Date: April 2006

Completion Date: Aug. 2007

Percent of Completion: 100%

HIGH SCHOOLS

Matanuska-Susitna Career & Technical High School

Wasilla, Alaska

McCool Carlson Green Architects



WELCOMING ENTRANCE

Serving an area the size of Delaware with a population of 80,000, the Career/Tech High School draws students from small cities and rural communities. Dissatisfied with traditional vocational approaches, the Career and Technical Education Division wanted a fresh, relevant, community-based response focusing on creating learning networks, integrating academics, adapting to change, creating compelling identities, and embracing the community.

A natural outgrowth of the project vision, career pathways revolve around the “Partners Room,” creating a focused learning community that features: Future proof-



OUTDOOR LEARNING



PATHWAY IDENTITIES

ing, such as agile spaces that allow for economical and smooth daily transformation and long-term adaptation to changing community needs; natural references, including flowing wall, floor, and railing patterns that give visible form to the changeable and connecting nature of the community, spaces, and programs; community outreach, including a flexible MPR/ Partners Room that adapts to community after-hours needs; and sustainable features,

including high-performance exterior envelope, polished concrete floors, highly efficient mechanical/electrical systems, and readily accessible infrastructure.

Inspiring and motivating students, this bold facility brings the power of the landscape and technology together, creating a positive focus for CTE programs. At once fun and serious, the building elicits student pride in its strong sense of purpose and unique expression. ■

PHOTOS: KEVIN C. SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY