

Sorenson Language and Communication Center Programming Services Gallaudet University Washington, DC

Services:

- Deaf Education Facility Programming
- Master Planning

Client:

Gallaudet University
Paul Kelly, VP of College Operations
900 Florida Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20002
202/448-6968

The new Sorenson Language and Communication Center will cap the main campus quadrangle as the student "Central Campus" at Gallaudet University. Winter & Company Special Needs Studio, in collaboration with the local architectural firm of Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering, worked on the campus planning and programming for the new center.

The new facility will be 80,000 gross square feet and cost \$20 million. Completion is expected in the fall of 2008.

Date: 2006

Cost: \$20.1 million

Design features include:

- Re-arranging massing around the "campus center" concept saves square footage.
- A 4-level central rotunda from which all facets of the program are visible promotes flow among all activities and spaces.
- Creative use of the rolling landscape and adjacent buildings provides great views and new outdoor programming space.
- Three entrances are designed to serve a different purpose; one formal onto the main quad; one as a secondary entrance toward the parking garage/service road; and one casual activity entrance facing the ravine.
- On all three levels, the building provides public rooms with views of nature.
- Hierarchical design optimizes construction dollars. The central rotunda is the primary space, the wide balcony-ways that surround it on each level are secondary, and perimeter program is tertiary and most simple. On the exterior, the quad-facing facade is the most refined, the outdoor venue facade has more glass and openness, and the remainder is direct and simple.

