
Special Education Facility at the University High School Irvine, California

Services:

- Deaf and Blind Facility Programming
- Schematic Design
- Life Safety, Communication and Visual system design
- On-going Consulting

Client:

Orange County Department of Education
Nina Young-Director of Business Services

Jon Levy-Deaf/HH Program Principal
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Date: 2003

Construction cost: \$7.7 million

Due to rapid growth in the area of special needs, the Orange County Department of Education secured bond funds of \$80 million in 2000 to construct several education facilities, some of which include Special Needs buildings. The University High Special Education project is one of them, in which a new building is to be constructed on the existing University High campus. Seeking to assure that this new facility would achieve optimum performance levels for its users, the Department of Education retained Winter & Company to consult with the staff and the architects to custom-tailor the design and program. As Deaf/Hard of Hearing programming and design consultants for this project, Winter & Company worked in collaboration with tBP Architecture of Newport Beach, CA. The new facility will be a 29,700 square foot two-story Special Education building.

During the design stage, John Dickinson of Winter & Company Special Needs Studio designed a series of axes and pedestrian ways to give the Deaf/HH users a clear visual view from the front/rear entries to the classrooms.

The corridors are also designed to be wider than standard ones to allow uncramped sign language conversations. All the communication, visual and life safety systems are also designed to allow deaf/HH users to "capture" the warning in a matter of seconds.



University High School-New Special Education Center

Winter & Company

Special Needs Studio

