

# TopProjects: LCC Health and Wellness Center submitted by SRG Partnership Inc.

## FIRST PLACE PUBLIC BUILDINGS \$5.1M - \$15M

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BY: [Lindsey O'Brien](#)

Lane Community College in Eugene has literally built its mission into its infrastructure. The new Health and Wellness Center houses a 40-foot high "lung" running the full east-west length of building's classroom bar. Structurally, the "lung" is an open cavity in the center of the building, but symbolically, it is meant to call attention to the building users' role as energy consumers. "I think it was the marriage of sustainable design and health education that led us to the idea," said Jon Wiener, project manager and design principal at SRG Partnership Inc.



Each classroom features direct openings into the lung space. When the windows are open, the lung acts like a chimney, drawing fresh air through classrooms and offices to cool the building, and then releasing the warm, contaminated air out its top. Although the lung is perceived as one element, it is actually comprised of fourteen chambers to separate the classrooms' acoustics.

## Project team + Stats

Location: Eugene, Oregon  
Cost: \$12.9 million  
Start Date: August 2008  
Completion Date: August 2010  
Owner/Developer: Lane Community College  
Architect: SRG Partnership Inc.  
Landscape Architect: Greenworks PC  
Engineers: Balzhizer & Hubbard Engineers,  
KPF Consulting Engineers,  
Solarc Architecture & Engineering  
General Contractor: Lease Crutcher Lewis  
Other Associates: Altermatt Associates,  
CompView, Energy Studies in Buildings  
Laboratory, Heery International Inc.

Overall, the goal of the project was to minimize the building's energy consumption, Wiener said. To completely eliminate mechanical cooling, the design incorporates exterior shading elements, correct building orientation, additional concrete mass, natural lighting strategies and ceiling fans.

The lung space also serves as a giant light well, flooding the building with natural light. Classrooms face north to avoid direct sunlight and to enjoy the views of the forested hills.

Windows of the south- and west-facing offices feature exterior sunshades and interior light shelves to manage light and minimize heat gain.

“It was a challenge to take a site on the edge of campus and weave it into the fabric of the community, but we enhanced that corner of campus,” said Wiener. “And now, even though they have a variety of options, students come to this building to hang out.”

The project required a highly integrated design process—SRG and its consultants teamed with Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to analyze the local climate in order to develop a building that would operate in concert with the natural environment.

The building, which is tracking LEED gold, was completed one month early and below budget. Not only does the Health and Wellness Center enable the College to welcome many more students into its program, it also provides a strong sense of place that aims to deepen occupants' connection with their environment.

*Recreated from article on [djcoregon.com](http://djcoregon.com)*