Technology Center (Washington & Jefferson College)

The Technology Center is an academic building on the campus of Washington & Jefferson College housing the Information Technology Leadership program . It houses over 200 instructional computers for use by the Information Technology Leadership and related classes . A statue of a coal miner , representing the work ethic and spirit of Western Pennsylvania , sits in the green space in front of the building .

The building was known as the Vilar Technology Center , in honor of alum Alberto Vilar , who had pledged $ 18 @.@ 1 million to construct the building . After he reneged on that pledge in 2003 , the building was renamed the Technology Center and plans for it were scaled back . It is the sister building to The Burnett Center , sharing the same architect and general contractor .

Facilities

The Technology Center is a four floor Gothic granite building with 74 @,@ 000 square feet (6 @,@ 900 m2) of floor space , including a " Global Learning Unit , " classrooms , seminar rooms , and faculty and administrative offices . " The building had over 200 instructional computers for use by the Information Technology Leadership and related classes The ground floor has an " Open Lab " of 39 computers for use by the campus community .

In 2007 , a statue of a coal miner sculpted by local artist Alan Cottrill was erected outside the Technology Center . It is intended to represent the work ethic and spirit of Western Pennsylvania , as well as the dream that an education can allow people a chance to escape the coal mines .

Information Technology Leadership

The building was designed for , and is primarily used by , the Information Technology Leadership program . This academic discipline studies the traditional Information Technology field as a liberal art , where the core principles and interdisciplinary connections of the field are examined . Students in this program take a standard curriculum , augmented with focused study in one of 4 possible fields : computer science , data discovery , information systems , and new media technologies .

In 2002 , Pennsylvania Congressman and former student John Murtha , who was a long @-@ time chair of the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee , procured a $ 2 @.@ 7 million defense appropriation for the Information Technology Leadership program to develop a remote educational program to would train members of the National Guard in technology skills , ranging from basic computer literacy to advanced applications .

Funding and name change

In 1999 , the college announced that it would build a new building , to be called the Vilar Technology Center , named after billionaire alum and well @-@ known opera philanthropist Alberto Vilar , who had pledged $ 15 million to the project , a pledge that would have been the largest in the college 's history . His pledges for the building eventually reached $ 18 @.@ 1 million . Amid Vilar 's falling fortunes during the stock market decreases in 2001 and 2002 , Vilar had reneged on a pledges to a number of organizations , including his pledge to the college . By 2003 , plans for the building were scaled back and the building had been opened as the Technology Center , without reference to Vilar . In 2005 , Vilar was charged with fraud and theft of money from his financial company . In a statement in 2005 , the college declined to release how much of Vilar 's pledge had been fulfilled .

Other , more successful , fundraising vehicles for the construction cost include donations through the " Revolutionary ! The Campaign for Washington & Jefferson College " fundraising campaign . Several charitable foundations donated money to the campaign , including the Eden Hall Foundation and the Hillman Foundation . Construction costs for the building were reportedly $ 29 @.@ 6 million . The college was able to issue a municipal bond through the Allegheny County Higher Education

Building Authority to finance a portion of the building 's construction .

= = Planning , design , and construction = =

The plans for the four @-@ story Gothic granite building took place during the tenure of President Brian C. Mitchell . Like its sister building , The Burnett Center , the architectural plans for the Technology Center were designed by MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni and the general contracting services were performed by The Landau Building Company .
In 2003 , the building was awarded the IMI Golen Award and was a finalist for the Master Builders ? Association 's Excellence in Craftsmanship Award . Construction on the building was completed in fall 2003 .