BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP: Maryland’s First Statewide Public Boarding School

presented by:

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Learning Objectives

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• Learn about the strategies of building a new campus in concert with the operational challenges facing the growth of the school to its full student capacity.
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• Learn about the strategies of building a new campus in concert with the operational challenges facing the growth of the school to its full student capacity.

• Learn about plans for future SEED Schools and the feasibility process used to learn about community needs, build strong and broad-based support, and develop a plan to establish a successful school.
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• Unlike a traditional day school, SEED Schools faculty and staff have 24 hours a day to work with students, provide the support they need and push them to achieve.

• This “gift of time” provides a comprehensive solution to the challenges facing inner-city youth and serves as a prototype for expansion nationwide.
A Catalyst for Change
The SEED Foundation

“Waiting for Superman”

The Oprah Winfrey Show
SEED’s track record is proven.

90 percent of SEED students who enter the ninth grade graduate from high school.

For comparison: 76 percent of all students across the nation graduate from high school.

More than 90 percent of SEED graduates have enrolled in college.

For comparison: 52 percent of low-income high school graduates enroll immediately in college.

More than 60 percent of SEED graduates have college degrees or are currently enrolled in college.

For comparison: 11 percent of low-income, first-generation students who enroll in college earn a bachelor’s degree within six years.
Social Mission and Student Challenges
“Make Your Work Matter at SEED”
[Video Clip 5:12 minutes]
Campus Planning and the Built Environment
Scheme 2

Save Both Wings

$2,845,000

Savings over Baseline
Scheme 3

Save West Wing

$3,395,000

Savings Over Baseline
Scheme 4

Save East Wing

$4,575,000

Savings Over Baseline
Design Principles

Build a cohesive academic and residential community with centers of activity to promote campus life.

- The dormitory buildings are organized to articulate a central outdoor green facing the academic building.

- Main entries to each building are placed on the quad as are the main gathering spaces: the dining hall, library and the dormitory’s living rooms.

- An internal central space in the academic building connects three levels of group activities: gymnasium, library, and auditorium.

- “Gift of time” - provide student living rooms and community rooms that can serve as study hall and learning spaces from the time classes end to lights-out.
Design Principles

Provide security features that are inconspicuous to the student.

Security Fencing
- Where visible in open areas an ornamental fence is used and is pulled in from the edge of the property so it feels less a barrier and more like a site feature.
- In other areas a more standard chain link type fence is used and located within existing and new landscape plantings.

Campus Security
- The campus security desk is integrated within the daily student movement and provides the type of interface that is a natural extension to academic environment.
- The presence of a perimeter fence and security staff allow the students to be safe and move around the campus independently much as they will once they get to college.
The individual buildings and the spaces within them are organized by the physical path of the student throughout the day.

This interconnectivity allows students to walk to class, their dormitory and extracurricular activities much in the manner they will experience on a college campus.
Design Principles

Provide spaces to accommodate parent and community involvement.

- Use of the school as a parent and community resource.
- The buildings are organized to permit outside community use without negatively impacting student activity or the maintenance and operations of the school.
The original Southwestern High School building had limited windows and minimal articulated outdoor space.

Spaces within the building were re-arranged and new window openings were added to allow for natural, glare-free light to saturate the building including the circulation spaces such as stair wells and corridors.

A sustainable education program was integrated into the dormitories providing a great learning environment to illustrate energy conservation and foster a broad sense of environmental stewardship in the community.
Challenges of Campus Growth
2007-2008 School Year - 0 Students
SEED School Lease Approved - October 3, 2007
2008-2009 School Year - 66 Students

1. Modular Building #1 Constructed - 7 Classrooms
2. Weinberg Hall (Dorm A) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
2009-2010 School Year - 222 Students

1. Modular Building #1 Constructed - 7 Classrooms
2. Weinberg Hall (Dorm A) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
3. Modular Building #2 Constructed - 8 Classrooms
2010-2011 School Year - 255 Students

1. Modular Building #1 Constructed - 7 Classrooms
2. Weinberg Hall (Dorm A) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
3. Modular Building #2 Constructed - 8 Classrooms
4. Modular Building #3 Constructed - 15 Classrooms
5. Laporte Hall (Dorm B) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
6. Modell Academic Center Phase I Renovations Completed - Dining, Kitchen, Gym
Phasing

2011-2012 School Year - 326 Students

1. Modular Building #1 Constructed - 7 Classrooms
2. Weinberg Hall (Dorm A) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
3. Modular Building #2 Constructed - 8 Classrooms
4. Modular Building #3 Constructed - Science Lab Fit-Out
5. Laporte Hall (Dorm B) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
6. Modell Academic Center Phase I Renovations Completed - Dining, Kitchen, Gym
7. Head of School Residence Constructed
8. Monumental Entry Sign Completed
9. Security Kiosk Installed
2012-2013 School Year - 357 Students

1. Modular Building #1 Constructed - 7 Classrooms
2. Weinberg Hall (Dorm A) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
3. Modular Building #2 Constructed - 8 Classrooms
4. Modular Building #3 Constructed - Science Lab Fit-Out
5. Laporte Hall (Dorm B) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
6. Modell Academic Center Phase I Renovations Completed - Dining, Kitchen, Gym
7. Head of School Residence Constructed
8. Monumental Entry Sign Completed
9. Security Kiosk Installed
10. **Modell Academic Center Phase II Renovations Ongoing - Classrooms, Offices, Library, Atrium, Auditorium**
2013-2014 School Year - **342 Students**

1. Modular Building #1 - Removed from site
2. Weinberg Hall (Dorm A) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
3. Modular Building #2 - Removed from site
4. Modular Building #3 - Removed from site
5. Laporte Hall (Dorm B) Completed - 200 Beds, 14 Apartments
6. Modell Academic Center Phase I Renovations Completed - Dining, Kitchen, Gym
7. Head of School Residence Constructed
8. Monumental Entry Sign Completed
9. Security Kiosk Relocated
10. Modell Academic Center Phase II Renovations Completed - Classrooms, Offices, Library, Atrium, Auditorium
“SEED and Stephanie – 5 Years in the Making”
[Video Clip 4:01 minutes]
Final Thoughts

- After years of planning, design and construction, the SEED School of Maryland has grown to 388 students in grades 6 – 10 from 17 counties across the state of Maryland.

- Within the next few years, it will grow to serve 400 students in grades 6 – 12 and in 2015 will graduate its first high school graduating class.
• The SEED Foundation believes there are at least four hundred kids in every city in America who could benefit from the support, stability and encouragement of a free, public, college-prep boarding school.

• They believe there should be a SEED School in every state, and are currently working to open schools in Ohio and Florida with more states to come.

• As these schools become realities, the prototypical design is being adapted to varying sites, climates and land use patterns found across the country.

• SEED’s future schools may look different but they will pursue the same mission: using a boarding school’s “gift of time” to help students prepare for success in college and beyond.
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The SEED Foundation
What’s Next?

- SEED School of Washington
- SEED School of Ohio
- SEED School of Missouri
- SEED School of Louisiana
- SEED School of New York
- SEED School of New Jersey
- SEED School of Florida
SEED School of Ohio