



**MUHLENBERG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES LIBRARY RENOVATION**  
*New Architectural Design Gift of Roberson Butz Architects*

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 5, 2005

**TIME/LOCATION:** 5:30-7:00pm  
Muhlenberg Elementary School  
740 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Allentown

**BRIEFLY:**

Students from Muhlenberg Elementary School will benefit from the design and renovation of the Muhlenberg ES library, completed for the start of the 2005-2006 school year. Designed by Roberson Butz Architects, the project took into consideration student flow and high levels of usage as well as adaptability of design so that the library can be used for other educational applications. All aspects of the renovation were carefully carried out, with durability, lighting, use of technology and flexibility key characteristics that went into the design. The library is 1,500 sq. ft. and holds 14,000 volumes. Muhlenberg Elementary's student population is 500 for the 2005-2006 school year. Total project value was approximately \$93,000, which includes the many in-kind gifts from community partners.

Construction began in June, at the close of the school session. 85 students, teachers, staff and parent volunteers emptied the library of books and furniture in two days.

"The library is the heart of any school, and with Allentown's huge emphasis on literacy, we felt a new library, completely renovated, would stimulate more children to be more excited about reading," says Debora Roberson, chief architect on the project.

Renovations include a new acoustic ceiling, indirect energy-efficient lighting fixtures, carpeting, window shades, drywall partitions, paint, circulation desk, reading bench, shelving, computer workstations, and student tables/chairs. A special "egg-shaped" place for group or individual reading is located in the center of the new library. The "reading egg" is articulated by low walls (fabricated from perforated aluminum), a built in linoleum clad bench, and a lowered egg shaped ceiling outlined with low voltage lighting. All elements in the library were detailed with children in mind, keeping tables, shelves and the circulation desk at comfortable heights.

The library is equipped with a new ceiling mounted projector (connected to the librarian's computer), recessed projection screen, two dedicated circulation computers and eight computer workstations for students. Tables are height adjustable and modular, to allow for reconfiguration to accommodate staff and community meetings.

The District is grateful to State Representative Jennifer Mann, who obtained a \$10,000 DCED grant to offset the costs for new furniture. The following companies and organizations contributed to the construction of the library:

Allentown School District	Lindner Wood Technology, Inc.
Alvin H. Butz, Inc.	Lutron Electronics Company, Inc.
Armstrong Ceiling Systems	Metro Design Center
Charles Dectis Painting, Inc.	Muhlenberg PTA
Diefenderfer Electrical Contractors	Roberson Butz Architects
Duggan & Marcon, Inc.	Shaw Industries, Inc.
Forbo Linoleum Inc.	
Interface Flooring Systems, Inc.	

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Muhlenberg's new librarian, Mrs. Elaine Werley, for her hard work in getting the library ready for the first day of classes.

"This was a community effort dedicated to the students in Allentown, a long-lasting legacy of commitment to them," says Principal Phillip Turton. "One parent saw a need and the entire community, including many of Muhlenberg's 350 families, came together with contractors and vendors for not only our students who attend now, but also for future generations. We are very grateful."

"Eric and I are committed to the success of public education," says Debora Roberson, referring to her husband, Eric Butz. "We are hoping that this project will be a catalyst for more projects like this to help Allentown School District. The private sector must continue to step up and make a difference in the lives of our children."

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