

Contact: Jeffrey R. Beckham
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 407
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-713-5195
Fax: 860-713-7459
Email: Jeffrey.Beckham@ct.gov

For immediate release

DAS Division of Construction Services and Western CT State University host ribbon-cutting ceremony *Spotlight on new Visual and Performing Arts Center*

DANBURY, CONN. — After much planning, designing, building and anticipating, the moment has arrived. On **Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014**, WCSU officials held an official ribbon cutting for the new [Visual and Performing Arts Center](#) at Western Connecticut State University.

The event was held in the West Lobby of the new 130,000-square-foot building on the university's Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension in Danbury.

"The new Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPAC) at Western offers the opportunity to receive a high quality arts education in an amazing facility, at the relatively low cost of a state university," said Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts and Professor of Music Dr. Dan Goble.

The center emphasizes the individual character of each of the university's art programs, and, expressed in the center's interplay of shapes, materials and light. Each program – visual arts, theatre arts and music – is identified with a metal-clad geometric shape housing its signature activity: the concert hall, the proscenium theatre and its north-facing art studios – reflecting the intimacy of theater, the expansiveness of performed music and the creative concentration of the visual arts.



DCS Deputy Commissioner Pasquale "Bud" Salemi addressed the crowd, "It seems like yesterday when we cast this first shovel into the ground as we began the process of delivering a visual arts center that elevates Western to a premier regional center for the cultural, intellectual and artistic centers of excellence. This building will bring together the departments of music, theater and visual arts. Western is already known for its fine arts programs based on the strength of its professors. This new state-of-the-art building will energize the school and provide updated facilities for the students to practice and perform."

Mr. Salemi continued, "What I would also like to highlight is that this project came in on time and under budget! I would like to take this moment to applaud the tireless work of many folks

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who are making this building a reality. I commend Western Connecticut State University, the team at the Department of Construction Services, Amenta/Emma Architects of Hartford, DiMeo Construction.

I thank you for joining us and I thank you for supporting the arts.”



DSC Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi addresses the crowd.

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State and local dignitaries cut the ribbon to open WCSU Visual and Performing Arts Center



DCS Staff along with project architects and construction officials pose for a photo in the new theater.

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