

A New Journey Begins



LEWIS COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS

Monday Morning Memo from the desk of Dean Don Capener

January 8, 2024

The New Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation: Student Open House

A student open house was held yesterday, Sunday January 7, on Marshall University's Huntington campus for the newly constructed Brad D. Smith Center for Business and Innovation.

The 77,000 square-foot facility officially opened for students studying business today. It is the new home for Marshall's Lewis College of Business. The College's Dean, Dr. Don Capener, welcomed almost 200 students to the new building, emphasizing all the new opportunities it holds for them academically and professionally. "What I loved most about yesterday's open house was the look in the students' eyes. We saw a lot of smiles and wide eyes. Every student I talked with were so impressed and proud to be a student in the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business."



Over 200 students, parents, and community members attended the event. Faculty and staff gave tours of the Encova Auditorium with 360-theater-style seats, nine classrooms, a computer lab, a finance lab, student commons, innovation space, and a 1st floor advising center. Students had a chance to see the wheeled flip-top nesting desks and writable surface panels on walls. All classrooms feature rooms with interactive video conferencing. They were also introduced to all the 2nd floor student lounge, open seating throughout the building, and private study areas and breakout rooms.

The center is named in honor of Marshall University President Brad Smith, a 1986 Marshall graduate and former CEO of Intuit. In 2018, Smith and his wife, Alys, donated \$25 million toward the project. Additional benefactors include Encova Insurance, Dutch Miller Auto Group and Ohio Valley Bank, among many others.

President Smith attended the event yesterday. “I am so excited that the university is going to get the chance to demonstrate to our students what a state-of-the-art business school looks like, and ultimately, they’re going to experience things in this school that will help them learn the newest techniques to compete in the 21st century,” he said.

A grand opening for the entire Marshall community is planned for March.



For more information contact [Nancy Lankton](#).

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