



WOHLSSEN
CONSTRUCTION

Fresh Perspective & Proven Expertise

Successful Partnerships

If you have not heard of Wohlsen Construction Company in Hamden, Connecticut, then it's the perfect time for an introduction. As one of the newest Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC) members and the fastest-growing higher education construction manager, Wohlsen brings a blend of fresh perspectives and proven expertise that elevates the construction experience across Connecticut's campuses.

Encouraging growth in both Wohlsen's relationships and capacity has resulted in successful partnerships with Quinnipiac University, Central Connecticut State University, and Fairfield University — with a keen focus on several other schools to come. Wohlsen's Regional Vice President, Mauro Rubbo and Senior Director of Business Development, Bob Labanara, are leading the way as the two focus on driving Wohlsen's presence across the State. "I am very familiar with Jennifer Widness and CCIC's great work representing Connecticut's Independent Colleges and Universities. It was a no-brainer for Wohlsen to support CCIC and help advance their efforts while introducing Wohlsen to the Connecticut higher-ed market," noted Labanara.



Regional Strength, Local Expertise

As CCIC corporate sponsor, Wohlsen Construction Company offers CCIC members an extensive construction background on academic campuses. The most important component of that background — whether a renovation or a new building — is the quality of the people involved. Although founded in 1890 with a considerable footprint across the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions, make no mistake when it comes to Wohlsen in Connecticut — they are 100% local. Wohlsen's emphasis on home-ground talent and local relationships with subcontractors is exemplified by Mauro Rubbo. A life-long Connecticut builder and industry veteran, Mauro brings 35 years of construction management and general contracting to every project. As the principal-in-charge, Mauro's background is invaluable. His previous work on academic and institutional facilities, such as a nine-story instructional and research addition for SUNY Downstate Medical Center's campus; an addition and renovations at UCONN Health Center's John Dempsey Teaching Hospital; and various renovations at Yale University, provide a depth of knowledge that sets a tone for success immediately. "Longstanding construction experts like Mauro are few and far between in Connecticut. He's a skillful communicator who knows how to bridge the gap between college and university objectives and the realities of today's labor and materials market in order to exceed project goals," commented Labanara.

Rubbo added, "I was born and raised in Connecticut with a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Haven. My experiences in all facets of construction in Connecticut, throughout my entire career, allow me to lead Wohlsen's growth and meet the needs of our higher-ed partners as they positively impact students' learning, playing, and living environments."



Occupied Campus Environments

Critical to Wohlsen's approach on all projects is their strict emphasis on Wohlsen as "temporary guests" on campus. "We appreciate colleges and universities' trust in us overseeing projects that transform their campuses. We also know that construction can be intrusive and inconvenient. We brief every team member on everything — from where they can park and walk to where they can take their coffee breaks, so everyone is mindful of their presence," noted Mauro.

Understanding that not everyone perceives active construction sites positively, Wohlsen is on a mission to change that. "It starts with constant communication and planning — both internally among all project team stakeholders and externally with up-to-date progress reports for faculty, students, parents, and alumni," explained Mauro. In a word, it's safe. Ensuring safe environments matters, both in theory and practice. "We don't just say it; we do it. And that includes the community around us," said Mauro. "Throughout a project, we continually create new spaces, which means establishing new traffic patterns to and from classes or segregating certain areas of campus. We take full accountability for ensuring the continuity of operations and understand that college can be a tough place for students. It is our job to ensure there is as little disruption as possible," noted Rubbo.

He speaks from personal experience as a father of two college graduates and one current student in her junior year. As a result, Mauro knows the impact that a campus can have on families' first impressions. "Aesthetics play an important role in the decision-making process. To this end, a critical part of what Wohlsen brings to the table is almost a "project within a project" approach where we institute hyper-focus on safe, clean, and presentable job sites," stated Mauro.

And when it comes to function, Wohlsen gets it too. "As both a parent and builder, I've had a front-row seat on how campuses adapt — from a facilities perspective to the changing needs of faculty and students," Mauro shared. "Recognizing these cycles and knowing that schools today will need entirely different facilities components over the next five-to-ten years allows our teams to be better partners in achieving a shared vision. We're proud to be forward-thinking builders and to share our fresh perspectives with CCIC members," stated Mauro.

Obsessed with communication — not only internally but with clients and all project partners — Wohlsen is a proud "over-communicator," which helps create an efficient work culture that has proven an asset as inevitable changes arise, from project alterations to campus events and activities. Whether unfamiliar with their background or how to pronounce their name [WOOL-son] — there is no doubt that Wohlsen Construction Company has arrived on Connecticut's higher education scene. Wohlsen's horsepower as a regional firm, coupled with their local roots, makes them a unique force among the usual list of construction managers. As one of CCIC's newest corporate sponsors, Wohlsen is a one-stop-shop providing everything that is needed throughout each phase of the construction — and doing it with a level of personal care and attention that sets a new industry standard.

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