



2025 AIA FORT WAYNE DESIGN AWARDS SUBMISSION

NACS ADMINISTRATION CENTER

## ARCHITECT'S STATEMENT

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### STORY

The Northwest Allen County Schools Administration Center represents a transformative solution to decades of spatial and operational limitations. For over fifty years, district leadership operated from improvised offices within an elementary school, a setting that hindered collaboration and efficiency. Rapid enrollment growth and the need for a unified administrative hub drove the vision for a purpose-built facility that embodies transparency, flexibility, and future readiness.

### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS AND SOLUTIONS

The design responds to three core imperatives: consolidate dispersed departments, foster collaboration, and anticipate growth. The concept of "Main Street" organizes the building into three distinct yet interconnected zones: technology, leadership, and business operations, linked by a central corridor that encourages interaction. Open workstations, shared lounges, and breakout spaces replace isolated offices, creating an environment that supports both focused work and dynamic teamwork. A boardroom with floor-to-ceiling glazing and advanced audiovisual systems anchors the facility as a civic space for governance and community engagement.

### CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL APPROACH

Delivered through a CMc/CMAR method, the 32,000-square-foot structure combines masonry and metal paneling for durability and

visual clarity. Mechanical and electrical systems were engineered for adaptability and efficiency, supporting robust technology infrastructure. Expansive glazing and clerestory windows maximize daylight penetration, reducing reliance on artificial lighting and enhancing occupant well-being. High-performance HVAC systems and sustainable material selections underscore the district's commitment to energy efficiency and long-term operational savings.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Universal accessibility guided every design decision, ensuring compliance with ADA standards across public and staff areas. Sustainable strategies informed building orientation, material choices, and system design, optimizing energy performance while minimizing environmental impact. The facility accommodates up to 82 occupants, 20 percent beyond current staffing, without sacrificing functionality, ensuring resilience for future growth. By integrating these principles, the Administration Center delivers a healthy, inclusive, and forward-thinking workplace that reflects the district's mission to elevate educational outcomes through effective leadership.

### CONCLUSION

This Administration Center sets a new standard for educational administration. Designed to foster collaboration, efficiency, and transparency, it creates a seamless connection between district

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leadership and the schools they serve. As Board President Liz Hathaway noted, "This building represents progress, growth, and our commitment to supporting students, staff, and families." By giving administrators the tools and environment they need, the district strengthens its ability to serve its community today while planning for tomorrow. The result is a showpiece facility that reflects the values of innovation, sustainability, and student success.

**Submission Category:**

NEW CONSTRUCTION—(Project cost greater than \$5million)

**Project Type:**

Administrative Office Building/Community Meeting Space

**Project Cost:**

\$16,047,091.70

**Project Address:**

13119 Coldwater Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

**Date of Substantial Completion:**

March 7, 2025





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CHARGER  
CAFE





# RONALD D. FELGER BOARDROOM

RONALD D. FELGER BOARDROOM  
named in  
honor of  
Ronald D. Felger



Dr. Ronald D. Felger, a former principal of Central High School, served as the principal of the NACS Administration Center from 1983 to 2022. He was instrumental in the school district's efforts to improve the quality of education for all students. Dr. Felger's leadership and dedication to the community have been a source of inspiration for many. The Boardroom is named in his honor to recognize his contributions to the district and the community.



Allen County  
Schools  
YOUR FUTURE IS OUR

163  
THE EAGLE  
ROOM











Northwest  
Allen County  
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YOUR FUTURE IS OUR PASSION