Los Angeles Southwest College’s (LASC) School of Science building has been recognized by the Southern California chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) with its 2020 Project Achievement Award for outstanding work in the practice of construction management.

CMAA honored the Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for construction and program management services on the School of Science at the CMAA’s 28th Annual Awards Gala on October 14 at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. Jacobs, on behalf of Los Angeles Community College District, provided construction management of the project. The CMAA evaluation focused on management efforts and project outcomes such as cost and schedule management, complexity, innovation and creativity, customer service and satisfaction, safety results and more.

The School of Science building includes a large lecture hall and nine laboratories specialized for different disciplines at LASC as well as classrooms, administrative spaces and more to support the college’s life sciences, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences programs. The two-story, 26,790 square foot building opened to students in fall of 2019.

“This honor affirms that LASC as well as LACCD are home to some of the finest higher education facilities in the area if not the country,” said Dr. Seher Awan, LASC’s president. “This is a big win for Jacobs but for us as well as we continue to emphasize our abilities to provide the best value for our students.”

The Southern California Chapter of the CMAA indicated that the School of Science represents achieving a mission of promoting professionalism, innovation, and excellence in construction management.

Project team members had to navigate construction on an active campus with few options for expansion as well as seismic fault lines and associated setback areas as well as a large slope on the north side of the site. The result is a spectacularly designed facility that offers two exterior staircases, a roof-top observation deck, easy walkways, and plenty of room for students to relax outside of class.

The School of Science also includes energy efficient appliances and incorporates a storm water management system, drought tolerant landscape, daylight sensors for lighting, LED Light Fixtures, cool roofing system, and recycling stations.
“The School of Science’s highly specialized labs and classrooms provide our students the chance to learn in spaces similar to professional research institutions,” said Dr. Rueben Smith, Vice Chancellor & Chief Facilities Executive at the Los Angeles Community College District. “CMAA’s recognition reaffirms LACCD’s commitment to design and deliver complex innovative educational projects while diligently managing cost, schedule and safety from the beginning to end of a project.”

Jacobs was also particularly proud of the safety record for this project. A total of 56,664-man hours were recorded to complete the project and only one recordable incident occurred during construction. A recordable incident is any work-related injury or illness that results in loss of consciousness, days away from work, restricted work, or transfer to another job.

The School of Science was delivered using the Design-Build delivery method. Harper Construction Co. and Sillman Wright Architects were awarded the contract to design and construct the building.