

Northern Illinois University Historic Building Makes Its Move with Midwest Moving

About Northern Illinois University

Chartered in 1895, Northern Illinois University is a comprehensive teaching and research institution with a student enrollment of nearly 25,000.

Enrollment: 24,820 (fall 2004)

Instructional Faculty: 1,195

Administrative & Professional Staff: 896

Operating Staff: 1,707

Academic departments: 40

Degrees: 22 types of degree conferred

Majors: 52 undergraduate majors, 74 graduate programs

Minors: 61

Rankings:

Carnegie Foundation - Doctoral/research university-extensive

Member of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC)

Universities Research Association - full membership

Source: www.niu.edu

Change is never easy. That is especially true when it involves the renovation of an important historic building and the smooth running of a large university.

Such was the case during the five-year renovation of the 100-plus-year-old Altgeld Hall on the campus of Northern Illinois University at DeKalb. The ambitious project, the culmination of more than five years of planning, architectural and engi-



neering efforts, also involved the relocation of dozens of administrative offices and hundreds of people, files, and equipment.

Combining Beauty and Functionality While Maintaining Historic Integrity

The carefully restored Altgeld Hall combines the grandeur that characterized the building when it opened in 1899, with the convenience and capabili-

ties of a 21st century office building. The renovated facility now contains administrative and public areas that combine the character of the original Victorian architecture with features to address the modern demands for things such as technology, handicapped access, and heating and cooling systems.

Altgeld Hall houses the offices of the president, Academic and Student Affairs (including the

Provost's office), Finance and Facilities, University Advancement and NIU Foundation, the offices of the University Council, and the university's legal and external affairs functions.

Other public spaces in the building include a new permanent home for the NIU Art Museum, and a new Instructional Technology Teaching Laboratory, where faculty and staff will master the latest in teaching technologies.

Multiple Moves Create Logistics Challenges

The beautiful facility now provides a wonderful home for NIU's administration. But what happened to the dozens of administrative offices, including the Office of the President and the Art Museum, that were displaced during the building's five year renovation and reconstruction?

"This project involved multiple moves of a great many administrative offices," explained Patti Perkins, Assistant to the Vice President for Finance and Facilities, and Project Manager for the Altgeld Project. "First, Altgeld Hall had to be completely vacated so that renovation could begin. All of the administrative offices from Altgeld were scattered in temporary quarters around the campus for about five years." As the project neared completion, the many offices scattered around the campus had to be moved back to Altgeld Hall, while others were shifted into or out of Lowden Hall, across the street from Altgeld.

"All of these moves had to be carefully coordinated in order to minimize downtime and keep the university running smoothly," Perkins noted. "Ken Stone and all of the people at Midwest Moving saw to it that the entire operation ran without problems. Not only were (Continue on page 2)

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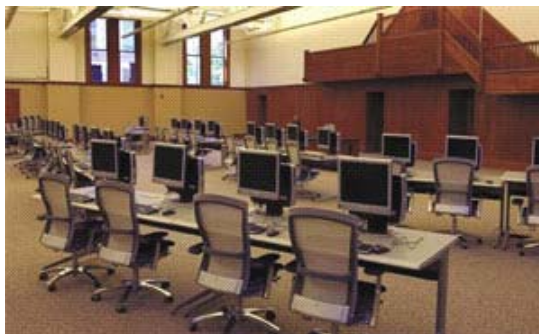
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(Northern Illinois University, Continued)

they patient and flexible, they helped us plan and coordinate all of the moves. It was especially helpful to me when Ken Stone came and met with all of the administrative people involved, personally explained what would happen and answered every question."

In all, the moves, which were expected to take a total of about three weeks, took only about a week and half to complete.



"Midwest Moving really understood what it takes to move a complex operation efficiently," Perkins stressed. "For example, we had thought we

would need to box and unpack the thousands of files in the offices being moved. Instead, Midwest was able to move many of the file cabinets with their contents, thereby reducing our packing time, to say nothing of preventing lost files."

Perkins concluded, "On top of all of that, there was not a single scratch on the new cherry woodwork!"

"They are true experts at what they do."

To learn more about the Altgeld Hall renovation project, visit the Altgeld restoration web site at <http://www.niu.edu/PubAffairs/altgeld/welcome.html>.

Meet Tara Word, Midwest Moving's Office and Industrial Move Coordinator

Tara Word, Office and Industrial Move Coordinator for Midwest Moving, gains great satisfaction from helping to as-



sure that every move handled by Midwest runs smoothly. Juggling the behind-the-scenes details of commercial moves, this three-year veteran of the moving business assists with client proposals, works with clients to coordinate scheduling, provides certificates

of insurance and union information, and writes the thank you notes when a job is successfully completed.

Nailing down the details of complex commercial moves fills Tara Word's workday with challenges and satisfaction. "I truly enjoy the interaction that I have with our clients, answering their questions and making sure that their needs are met," she explained. "Hearing a client say that they would gladly recommend Midwest Moving really makes my day."

Tara Word explained, "Before I came to work for Midwest Moving, I worked for one of Midwest's clients. We were moving a large number of elderly individuals."

"Moving can be a challenging time for anyone," she recalled. "However, Midwest's employees demonstrated not only professionalism but also patience and concern toward the folks who were moving."

"It is really a delight to be a part of this business. Midwest Moving is a wonderful place to work - both warm and caring. This company is like a family to me."

