



Facilities Project Management & Construction
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Date: June 8, 2012

Re: Aquatic and Fitness Center HVAC Upgrades Design

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a reference to the quality of work provided by Gipe Associates in the design and Welch and Rushe in the construction of the HVAC upgrades to the Aquatic and Fitness Center at George Mason University. The project was completed in August of 2011.

The scope of the project entailed the replacement of various systems on the brink of failure critical to the operation of the building. The need for replacement was immediate. The Aquatic and Fitness Center is a profitable facility for the University. The continued closing of the facility would have resulted in lost revenue. There was not the opportunity to allow the construction schedule to slip. In an effort to expedite the project, it was procured utilizing the design-build delivery method. The team of Welch and Rushe and Gipe Associates was selected as the design builder.

Design milestones were critical to the success of the project. The quality of work Gipe Associates performed guaranteed that the milestones were met. The construction of the project also had a tight window in which to be completed. Welch and Rushe had all of the work lined up so that it would be completed well before the contract completion date. As a result, when unforeseen conditions provided challenges and additional scope was added to the project, the overall schedule was maintained without sacrificing quality.

Eddie Martin, as project manager overseeing construction and design, assured that the project was a success. Michael Nelson, as lead designer, and Michael Purtell, principal engineer, provided a code compliant design that met all of the University's requirements. They also provided quick answers to any questions that arose in the field. The entire design build team exceeded the expectations on the quality of the project and in all operational aspects of the project.

It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with both Gipe Associates and Welch and Rushe on this project and hope that will bid on future projects at George Mason University. If you would like further information on the work Gipe Associates or Welch and Rushe provided, please contact me at (703) 993-9220 or via email at aiszard@gmu.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Iszard". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Alex Iszard
Project Manager
Facility Project Management & Construction