



Trevor Martin, a marketing senior at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business, studies last week in the school's updated building. Below left, students do schoolwork in comfortable chairs in the renovated library. Photos by Helen H. Richardson, *The Denver Post*

Building relationships



The University of Colorado business school impresses students this fall with a \$38 million renovation

By Karen Rouse
The Denver Post

BOULDER» It was the building. When officials at the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado at Boulder asked students why they rejected the school after having been accepted, the No. 1 response was "the facilities," Dean Dennis Ahlberg said.

The 100,000-square-foot building offered a breathtaking view of the Flatirons, but it had not been updated since it opened in 1970. It lagged behind a business-school culture that puts a premium on technology — such as wireless classrooms — and student interaction, said Ahlberg.

"The building was a competitive disadvantage for us," he said recently. "In the business school, students demand a higher level of technology, and if you don't provide it, they'll go somewhere else."

This fall, the school opened

to roughly 3,200 students with a \$38 million renovation to its existing building and a 65,000-square-foot addition.

The new Koelbel Building features 25 team rooms with whiteboards where students collaborate on projects or prepare for presentations. There are two classrooms wired for distance learning and an "information commons" — a media center that also houses a cafe.

Throughout the building are e-mail kiosks and inviting sofas. There are a new dining area where meals can be catered and community rooms for outside groups to use.

"We changed the emphasis from the traditional 'Come to class, sit there, listen, go away' ... to 'This is where you're learning,'" said Ahlberg.

Business schools are providing more amenities as they compete to attract students.

But facilities are not all that matter to business students,

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