

## PROJECT PROFILE: **ACADEMIC CENTER**



**PROJECT:** SHERIDAN COLLEGE GATHERING SPACE  
Sheridan, Wyoming

The Edward A. Whitney Academic Center includes 35,000 square feet of new space, including a gathering space that serves as the new “front door” for the campus. Upon opening, the College noticed that the space was excessively loud when occupied, speech was garbled, and presenters were difficult to understand even though the sound system had been modified. BSA was hired to complete a Room Acoustics Analysis and provide design recommendations to balance the acoustics in the space.

### **BSA's SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS:**

- Measured the reverberation time at nine locations throughout the first and second floors. Based on the results, determined reverberation time and speech transmission index (STI) design goals for the space.
- Used computer models to determine effectiveness of various acoustical treatments and optimum placement, without altering the aesthetics of the wood ceiling.
- Suggested changing the first floor loudspeaker locations, using high-directivity loudspeakers near the seating area, and turning off the ceiling speakers, except over the balcony areas.
- Recommended adding 2,300 sf sound-absorbing panels to the vertical surfaces in the room, and to the underside of the gypsum board ceiling soffits. Six acoustical panel options and various manufactures were provided for selection.



BSA provided acoustical design recommendations to improve speech intelligibility and reduce overall noise levels in the space. BSA completed the project quickly, in order to meet the College's end of fiscal year funding requirements.