

Developing a New Way for Access to Donated Clothing

Deante' C. Barry, Central Washington University

Introduction

Purchasing new clothing can be expensive and cause financial stress for many CWU students. The aim of this project is to make sure clothing that is still usable is not thrown away and made available to students at no cost. In partnership with Wildcat Pantry and Career Services a new centralized Casual Closet is being renovated in Boullion Hall 112 where students can get free donated casual clothing. The site has new clothing racks, cubbies, and mirrors.

Current Challenges

- The main issue facing the casual closet is the backlog of laundry, in the current system donated clothes are washed in partnership with the Recreation Center. However, there is a high demand for their laundry services from Dining and Recreation, Making it hard to get laundry washed for the Casual Closet (Figure 1)
- There is a lack of hardware to hang and display the clothing (Figure 1)
- This facility, Career Services, and Wildcat Pantry clothing locations aren't well known to CWU Students.



Figure 1. Corner of the disorganized Casual Closet with unwashed clothing in bags scattered around the room

Solutions and Renovations

- To solve these issues a new routine for laundry was needed. A partnership with Auxiliary Services was formed. Allowing for the clothing to be washed more quickly.
- For hardware and renovations four racks, twelve modular cubbies, a floor mirror, and privacy film were acquired. Two of the new racks were donated by Surplus, saving costs.
- These new additions allowed for the new space to be organized and properly display the clothing.
- A changing room in the facility was also furnished and decorated with a mirror, chairs, and privacy film.

Long-Term Goals

- The primary goal is to have this facility fully running during normal Career Service business hours
- A secondary goal is that this facility will gain enough popularity to allow the Wildcat Pantry to shift their clothing closet corner directly this new location. This will allow Wildcat Pantry to focus on food and utilize the space being taken up by the clothing closet (Figure 2)



Figure 2. The clothing closet corner in the Wildcat Pantry.

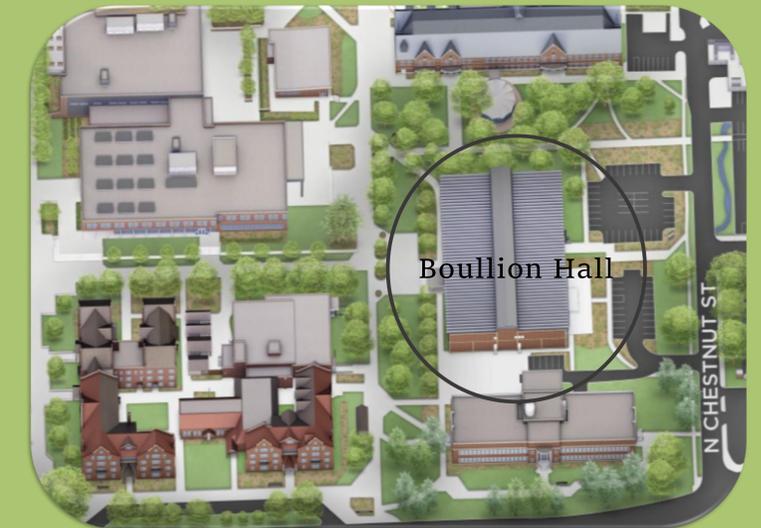


Figure 3. Map of Central Washington University that shows Boullion Hall as the new location of the Casual Closet.

Recommendations

After everything was put into place the new location looked professional and was able to efficiently function in a way for student to gain access to free clothing. This new area will eventually need its own staffing outside of the business closet student staff to maintain the demand and time needed. This may even develop into its own department if grown large enough. This Contributed to sustainability efforts on campus as it extends clothing lives while also keeping clothing out of landfills and is a free resource for CWU students in need of clothing.

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