

Project Location: Jessie Harris Building

Submitted By: Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management: Michelle Childs - Assistant Professor, Lucy Simpson - RCS Internship Coordinator, & Ann Fairhurst - Department Head, Professor

Proposal: The Jessie Harris Building, home to several founding departments at the University of Tennessee, including: Child and Family Studies, Nutrition and Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Management, is the first building that onlookers see (and often walk into) as they enter campus from downtown Knoxville. As the (very) first impression at the University of Tennessee to several perspective students, current students, and parents/donors, we are proposing i) an updated indoor seating area so that students can study and prepare for class between class times and ii) implementation of outdoor plaza seating/studying areas in and around the Jessie Harris Building.

Currently, the first impression of the building is dated, unappealing, and does not encourage student productivity.

An updated seating area would enhance the buildings' first impression and would greatly facilitate student productivity between classes. With easy access to Mossman, the Hill, the Student Union and downtown Knoxville, all campus community members will be able to easily access study areas between obligations. Simply, a new seating area with charging stations can be implemented alongside hallway walls.

East Tennessee weather brings many days of great weather to work outside and collaborate among students, faculty and staff. Currently, the Jessie Harris Building does not offer any outdoor seating and working spaces.

The building offers plenty of opportunities for a welcoming outdoor first impression.

First, the area between the 11th street garage and the Jessie Harris Building is passed by many travelers. From Fort Sanders to the North, to the World's Fair Park to the East, this area is a "gateway" to our campus. In this case, we propose this site for outdoor seating.

By offering these first impressions in and around the Jessie Harris Building, it can enhance productivity among students, faculty and staff while enjoying the great outdoors and campus community.

