

# CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S CONVOCATION CENTER

**Market Sector:** Education  
**Project:** New Convocation Center  
**Location:** California, Pennsylvania  
**Owner:** California University of Pennsylvania  
**CM/GC:** Whiting-Turner  
**Contract Type:** Subcontract  
**Tonnage:** 1,400  
**Scope:** Fabricate and install structural steel

This exciting and challenging project for Kinsley Manufacturing was located just south of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania nestled on a small, pristine campus known as California University of Pennsylvania.

The university constructed a \$54 million Convocation Center that will encompass 142,000 square feet of their campus. According to the University's website ([www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu)) this center "will be the biggest indoor venue of its kind between Morgantown and Pittsburgh." The center will provide ten state-of-the-art classrooms, conference facilities and a massive 6,000 seat arena.

Whiting-Turner awarded the steel package to Kinsley Manufacturing. This subcontract consisted of the fabrication and installation of 1,400 tons of structural steel and wire strands as well as the miscellaneous metals required to construct the new convocation center.

**Some of the unique project challenges include:**

- Very tight space limitations causing detailed logistics for delivery and installation, since the site did not allow for staging extra steel
- Erection of 44 clear span trusses that stretch 200 feet; installing them required multiple picks utilizing multiple cranes
- To provide lateral structural support, the design utilizes 9 pieces of 3-inch diameter wire rope to be placed and then tensioned using hydraulic jacks. Each strand is 200 feet long and weighs 5,000 pounds
- The fabrication, coordination and installation of 18 raker beams to receive the precast concrete bleacher that make up the arena seating.
- Coordinated fabrication and installation of 500 linear feet of suspended catwalk. The catwalk was installed between the wire rope strands and the long span trusses, but could not be installed until all of the trusses and the wire rope were in place.

