

2004

Institute Moves in to New Facility

Randall W. Eberts

W.E. Upjohn Institute, eberts@upjohn.org

Citation

Eberts, Randall W. 2004. "Institute Moves in to New Facility." *Employment Research* 11(1): 5–6. [https://doi.org/10.17848/1075-8445.11\(1\)-2](https://doi.org/10.17848/1075-8445.11(1)-2)

This title is brought to you by the Upjohn Institute. For more information, please contact repository@upjohn.org.

Institute Moves in to New Facility

Randall W. Eberts

I am pleased to announce the opening of our newly expanded and renovated facility. After nearly two years of planning and a year of construction, we moved into our new offices on October 27. The new facility doubles the space of our main building, adding an additional 20,000 square feet of new offices and meeting rooms, and totally renovates the existing building of similar size. Although we have two other buildings on our campus, we found over the past several years that we had outgrown our space. We had squeezed as many people in the main building as we could. When we moved into the original building in 1965, we had a staff of 14; when we moved out of the building to make way for construction, we had 34 employees in that building and 21 in our other two buildings. Obviously, it was time to expand.

Staff had considerable input into the design of the building and their workspace, and they are pleased with the highly functional space that resulted. Now we have additional office space to house visiting scholars and summer interns, a large conference room to hold seminars or small conferences, several meeting rooms, and an expanded library. We also have a state-of-the-art teleconferencing center.



The Upjohn Institute's new facility doubles the space of the original building, adding an additional 20,000 square feet. The building to the left is one of two additional Institute buildings, which are refurbished mansions that house various operations.



The construction process began in October 2002 and was completed one year later. The original building, constructed in a U-shaped configuration with a courtyard in the middle, was completely renovated and fully integrated with the new two-story addition.

A spacious reception area welcomes visitors and opens into a two-story atrium with skylight, as shown in the bottom photo.



For those who have visited our Web site during the past year, you may have kept abreast of our progress in transforming our existing building.

The Institute grew out of Dr. Upjohn's concern about the well-being of workers who are displaced due to economic downturns. In 1932, he purchased a sizable parcel of land outside of Kalamazoo where laid-off workers could grow food for their families. This grand experiment of a land-based social safety net was replaced by the Unemployment Insurance system a few years later.

Today, the Institute has 55 employees working in two divisions. The research division, including 10 Ph.D. economists, analyzes the dynamics of the labor market and conducts evaluations of employment programs around the world. The employment management division is the administrative entity for the local Workforce Development Board, administering all federal and state employment programs for our part of Michigan. The marriage of research and operations makes the Institute a unique organization, and with this expansion and upgrade, we believe that we are better equipped to fulfill our mission of finding practical solutions to employment issues.



The large conference room allows ample room for seminars and guest speakers.

Natural light and open space contribute to the Institute's modern design. The two-story glass atrium offers a seamless view into the landscaped courtyard and a panoramic view of downtown Kalamazoo from the second floor.

