

ALBANY MEDICAL CENTER PATIENT PAVILION, NEW YORK

COMMISSIONING

Project Budget:

\$360 Million

IMPROVEMENT DETAILS

Provided fundamental and enhanced commissioning services:

- Design review
- Submittal review
- Inspection and testing
- Warranty phase services
- Operator training

800.424.9144

www.willdan.com



GOALS AND CHALLENGES

Founded in 1849, the 734-bed Albany Medical Center provides the widest range of medical and surgical services in the region, with 450 doctors. The Medical Center contracted Willdan to commission its 400,000 ft² state-of-the-art facility. The 6-story facility includes patient rooms, 26 operating suites, a neo-natal care unit, intensive care unit, and isolation rooms. The building incorporated many energy saving measures and sustainable design features, receiving LEED Gold certification.

The scheduling of functional and performance testing for the building required coordination with the construction manager and facility, as much of the testing needed to take place after the building was occupied. Willdan worked with the facility and contractors to conduct testing on holidays and off hours to minimize the impact on staff and patients.

Because of the high performance envelope, the building was extremely 'tight.' Although this is desirable for energy efficiency, it made balancing the system very challenging. This impacted pressurization issues across secure areas and interconnections to existing buildings.

SOLUTIONS AND RESULTS

Willdan initiated the balancing coordination efforts very early on, identifying areas of concern and issues to prevent scheduling and coordination problems later on.

The unique air supply and return system for the building incorporated the use of large plenums and common ducts for the building's entire return system by blending the air into these common duct plenums. Willdan was instrumental in providing testing, data, and recommendations to modify the control strategies in order to properly control the air and maintain proper pressurization throughout the various seasonal modes.