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PURDUE UNIVERSITY

WEST LAFAYETTE, IN

Purdue Includes Safety and Aesthetics in New Gateway Renovations

THE SITUATION

Founded in 1869, Purdue University was established in West Lafayette, IN, by businessman John Purdue. It was a school he funded to be a college of science, technology, and agriculture. Today the university offers both undergraduate and graduate programs in over 200 major areas of study and is most known for its engineering programs. Several PU graduates are responsible for quite a few of today's mainstream food staples including the founder of popcorn (Orville Redenbacher) as well as the inventor of chicken nuggets. Purdue is also home to 23 NASA Astronauts, with one of their most notable alumni: Neil Armstrong.

In May of 2019, the first of nearly two dozen planned gateway updates was completed for the 150th anniversary and meant to frame the Purdue Memorial Union. At one of the busiest entries to the campus, the plazas are designed to give pedestrians more room to maneuver at these street corners.

THE SOLUTION

The first completed gateway is located at streets State & Grant. Thousands of students, faculty, & visitors pass the busy student union and walk across the Purdue University Medallion daily. Creative Edge, specialty flooring designers, had used SlipNOT on another famously public project in Times Square (Spotlight on Broadway). For the project at Purdue requiring similar specifications, aesthetics and safety, CE contacted SlipNOT for another custom application. CE sent in precut stainless steel letters to have Grade 2 stainless steel SlipNOT applied to them. The stainless steel inlayed letters will be a timeless and low maintenance addition to the university, withstanding harsh weather elements like rain and snow due to natural corrosion resistant properties.

THE IMPACT

When Purdue first opened its doors, they began with just six instructors and 39 students. Now the university is home to more than 40,000 students and 3,000 faculty members. Safety, as well as presentation, is a top priority for educational facilities. Stainless steel SlipNOT products have been used on many applications for several reasons; one main motive is due to its aesthetically pleasing presentation. Stainless steel is also extremely durable, low maintenance, and leaves a much smaller carbon footprint than other metals. The long term lifespan and low maintenance costs make it an economical choice in the long run. The Boilermakers will benefit from SlipNOT's duality and will continue to include that aspect in the completion of the rest of the gateways across campus.