

**CREC ACADEMY OF  
AEROSPACE & ENGINEERING**  
CREC Middle School & High School  
Windsor, CT

**Project Partners**

Friar Associates Architects

**Trends**

Active Learning  
Enhanced Collaboration

**Solutions**

Audiovisual Technology  
Furniture

**Spaces**

Media Learning Center  
Administrative Wing  
Guidance Center



Specially designed media:scape lounges in the Media Center | Photos © Robert Benson Photography

**NASA-style learning environments prepare  
and inspire our future astronauts.**

The CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering, a STEM school, serves grades 6-12 with students from more than 30 cities and towns in the Hartford, CT area. The skills and knowledge gained in science, technology, engineering and mathematics are not only essential for student success, but they are also invaluable because these fields are deeply intertwined in real world applications. Building on the greater Hartford area's engineering and aerospace industries, Friar Associates transformed a former commercial building into a state-of-the-art school.

**Real life inspiration.**

The aeronautic exterior architectural design dramatically communicates the school's STEM mission. The building generates excitement, as students are transported into other galaxies from the auditorium, where the exterior walls feature a pixelated image of the Lagoon Nebula, taken by the Hubble Telescope. The visual story continues inside as students navigate down hallways modeled after the Bradley International Airport's airstrip.

Emulating NASA's Mission Control, the Media Center is the heart of the school and a hub for students. Custom Steelcase media:scares serve as landing pads for team projects. The Cyber Café, with benching and dedicating computing, provides an individual focused work zone.

Attention to detail is also seen in the administrative wing and college center, with custom-built Arnold reception desks and tables. Common meeting spaces and corridors are outfitted with Steelcase seating for students and educators for impromptu collaboration.

The CREC Academy offers its students an environment that sparks their intellectual curiosity, provides an immersive learning experience and inspires them to excel in fields critical to our future.

CREC is celebrating 50 years of academic excellence. For more information about CREC and CREC's award-winning schools, please visit: [www.crec.org](http://www.crec.org)



Zinc-clad wing housing science labs



Custom Arnold reception desk