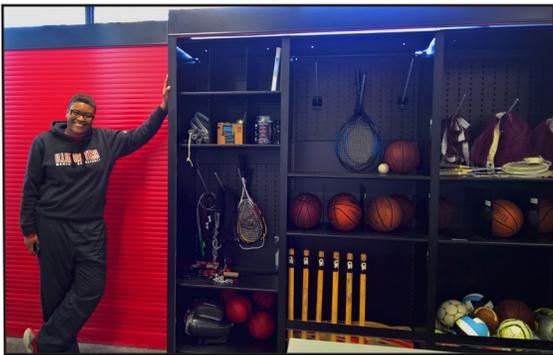




Athletics Department Reutilizes Storage Space in a Big Way at Illinois Tech

Did you know that Illinois Tech is an NCAA Division III athletics institution? Most are familiar with Illinois Tech as a technology-focused, research university. However, those leading the charge for the student-athletes have been quietly building a program that rivals other Division III universities.

The Keating Center at Illinois Tech has recently undergone various improvements including new equipment and a fresh coat of paint, but it was the new sports equipment storage redesign that made utilizing the Center more efficient for all.



The previous area was unorganized with storage shelves and an elevated desk that was bolted into the floors and walls. Its purpose was out of step for what the facility needed in order to serve its students and visitors best. As they began to plan for the removal, Illinois Tech reached out to furniture vendors where they recommended Ellis System's Ken Pahlke as the industry expert.

When Ellis Systems approaches a new project, preparation and details are essential. Ken Pahlke began by surveying the space and all of the equipment that needed to be stored. He took pictures of the space and measured every piece of equipment. When Ken returned to present the newly designed equipment storage layout, it made Usha Gilmore, Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Compliance very excited. "We knew everything was going to fit perfectly and were thrilled that the storage units were able to be ordered in the Scarlet Hawk's school colors of red and black, adding school spirit."

In mid-December, while the student body was gone for winter break, the Ellis System's installation crew came in for just a single day and installed the new athletic storage system. "The installation crew was on time, knew what they were doing and were simply fun to talk to," continued Coach Gilmore.

The new and larger storage design had a designated place for all of the sporting equipment, as well as a space for student IDs. "When a student wants to use a cricket bat or a basketball, all they need to do is provide their ID, and our student staff gives them the equipment," said Ms. Gilmore. "We now have a secure, safe space for each student's ID when the equipment is in use."

The second storage unit accommodates expansion for any new equipment. It consists of dividers with bins to make it easier and more organized. Because of the clearance needed for the hallway, the scope of the unit had to be less dense. Both storage units consist of electric tambour doors, serving as an easy to use way for the student workers to open and close the storage units safely.

At the end of the day, the new storage solution is able to keep operations efficient, students happy and activities fun!

