

Helen Edwards Engineering Research Center

Fermilab's newest state-of-the-art building is a focal point for the lab's engineering. Its collaborative research spaces will connect engineers, scientists and technicians as they tackle the technical challenges of particle physics.



The Helen Edwards Engineering Research Center connects to the lab's 16-story office building, Wilson Hall. Photo: Ryan Postel, Fermilab

Fermilab's Helen Edwards Engineering Research Center was dedicated in 2025 in honor of the late Dr. Helen Edwards, a particle physicist at Fermilab for 40 years. The building is a testament to the synergy among the many professionals who converge from around the globe to work on particle physics research.

Centralized and modernized

The Edwards Center provides a collaborative space that not only houses research but also fosters innovation among the researchers who occupy it, inspiring them with its design. Its state-of-the-art technical spaces and laboratories are designed to adapt to changing uses now and into the future. Through modular planning principles, controllable building systems and future-thinking performance parameters, it meets the needs of today's — and tomorrow's — engineers and researchers.

The Edwards Center is a major addition to the Fermilab campus, bringing engineers and technicians closer to the scientists in adjoining Wilson Hall, Fermilab's main building. The delicate and intentional nature of the Edwards Center design connects to the iconic structure through materiality, massing and scale while making a bold statement for the future of the lab.

Advancing science

The new two-story facility is a critical element in support of Fermilab's role as host laboratory for the international Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment and the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility, providing space for engineering and detector R&D.

The Edwards Center provides spaces for new endeavors such as liquid-argon detector development, the design of electronics, and chip development.

Continuing a legacy of innovation

The Edwards Center design honors the heritage and vision of Fermilab and its landmark Wilson Hall, often seen as a physical symbol of the lab's history of pioneering science and technology. Helen Edwards was a towering figure in the world of accelerator science, renowned for leading the design, construction, commissioning and operation of Fermilab's Tevatron accelerator.

A beacon to attract and retain the best and brightest engineers to the Fermilab science mission, the Edwards Center will stimulate a vibrant and forward-looking collaborative environment, enabling innovation at Fermilab for decades to come.

The state-of-the-art building was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for incorporating numerous features to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, waste and pollution, and increase water efficiency. The center has received industry awards for its innovative design.