



Award of
EXCELLENCE

**United States Air Force Academy
Center for Character & Leadership Development**

Colorado Springs, CO

Brandston Partnership Inc.

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The US Air Force Academy Honor Code is succinct: “We will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does.” The academy’s Center for Character & Leadership Development is both a symbol of the institution’s commitment to that code and an academic center devoted to its integration within all aspects of academy life. The distinctive structure marks the direction to Polaris, a familiar navigational beacon and symbol of the institution’s unwavering moral code.

The center’s gathering space, the Forum, lies beneath the 105 ft sloped skylight structure, where a truss system of horizontal plates acts as both sunshade and light reflector. At night, LED floodlights ringing its base uplight the structure and reflect light off an array of suspended mirrors to provide the Forum’s house illumination.

The Wing Honor Board Room, directly south of the Forum, is the venue for fact-finding concerning infractions of the Honor Code. Proceedings center on a hearing table beneath an LED-backlit laylight, whose beveled planes culminate in an elliptical aperture. This aperture provides the witness a perfectly aligned view of the oculus at the top of the skylight structure and, in concept, Polaris sighted 434 light years beyond.

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