



1930s Gymnasium and Gym Annex    New Activity Center

# LCSC HERITAGE

Activity Center

Date Constructed: 2006

The original gymnasium, built in 1909, housed a swimming pool, a bowling alley, showers, tub baths, a basketball court, classrooms, a stage, offices, and a suspended running track. The athletic field adjoined the building on one side, providing space for track events and hockey. Because all students were required to take physical education, the original gymnasium became too small by the 1930s. In 1935 the Idaho legislature agreed to pay half the cost of the new gymnasium, and the Public Works Administration funded the remainder. The new gymnasium seated fifteen hundred people and boasted an art-deco concrete structure and a connecting tunnel to the old gym.

During World War II, the government authorized war-training schools at places scattered around the country. The Lewiston State Normal Navy Air School trained hundreds of flyers for wartime service. The Normal School was one of 113 naval-air training units in the nation. By the end of 1943, having instructed more than fifteen hundred fliers by that time, Lewiston's unit earned the distinction of training more naval air cadets than any other. This time period also saw the transformation of the Athletic Field with a 500 yards long course for the naval pilots. The course had twenty-four obstacles. Each cadet spent eight weeks at the Normal naval school. The first four weeks included elementary flight training in flight preparatory and ground school classes on the Normal School campus. The second four week training period took place at Zimmerly's flight school at the Asotin County Airport.

In 2003, the Idaho Legislature approved the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of a multi-purpose facility that would replace the 1930s-era gymnasium and annex. LCSC students contributed \$2 million, while gifts from LC alumni, friends and supporters in the community added another \$1.5 million toward the \$15 million total cost. Besides the daily use by students, instructors, and sports teams, the Activity Center was planned for sporting events, concerts, conferences, and graduation ceremonies.

This tri-level, 100,000 square foot facility features a 3,700 seat complex, a conditioning/weight room, three full-sized basketball courts, an athletic trainers facility, five classrooms, offices, dance and exercise rooms, and a concessions area.

The athletic facility portion of the Activity Center was occupied in 2005 and the Activity Center West (classrooms/dance/office) complex was finished in 2006. The architects were CSHQA of Boise and Ellis Feeney Architects of Lewiston. The construction contractor was Leone Keeble.