

Case Study:

Penn State University – State College, Pennsylvania

Williams GL Lighting Scores Big at Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center



Job Specific Information:

- Fixture and Quantity: (25) 1000-watt metal halide fixtures replaced one-for-one with (25) 8' GL, 12-lamp T5HO fixtures. Two additional T5HO lamps on top of each fixture provide indirect illumination
- Mounting Height: 38' above the floor, suspended from a 42' high ceiling
- Spacing: 25' on center
- Total Energy Consumption: Cut by 30%
- Footcandle Levels: Floor levels increased from 45 to 90 average maintained with all lamps energized
- For complete GL specifications, see hewilliams.com.

When Manager of Facilities, Rick James, evaluated lighting options for a 17,325 square-foot Auxiliary Gymnasium within Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center, he knew two things: the new fixtures needed to deliver high light levels for sports activities and a more intimate glow for banquets and special events. After reviewing the capabilities of the Williams GL, James was convinced that the high-quality fluorescent luminaires would meet his needs.

"We needed scalable, uniform illumination, and a whiter light than what was produced by our existing 1000-watt metal halide fixtures," he said. "So we had Mack Messner of our physical plant office and John Reese, of Reese Engineering, a local electrical engineer, review the proposed fixtures, loads, and construction drawings. They looked at the potential energy savings and increased footcandles on the floor and agreed that the GL investment was the way to go."

The old metal halide units were replaced one-for-one with 25 Williams GL 8' luminaires, each equipped with twelve 54-watt T5HO fluorescent lamps. Two additional lamps were placed on top of each fixture to allow the option of soft, indirect illumination. During the installation a lighting control panel with four presets was added, allowing maintained footcandles to be scaled from a low of 5 to a maximum of 90—twice the output of the old metal halide fixtures. At maximum output, the Williams GLs still cut energy consumption by over 30%.

During the installation process, James and his work crews—initially skeptical about the switchover to fluorescent lighting—were quickly impressed by the dramatically improved light output. Those first impressions soon carried over to other key users of the facility.

"After we completed the job the first comment from Rene Portland, head women's basketball coach, was, 'I couldn't believe that when I opened the gymnasium door, there was actually light shining out to the entry,'" James said. "She actually thought it had been painted because of the brighter look."