

## **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this Manual of Design and Specification Standards (DSS Manual) is to establish and employ a set of baseline standards for the design, construction and maintenance of physical facilities at the University of Arizona. It is intended that these standards represent a holistic balance between affordable, up-front construction costs and long-term, Life-cycle costs.

The University typically owns, operates and uses facilities for many years, therefore durability, maintainability and operational efficiencies are crucial. The flexibility to adapt these facilities based on changing needs and paradigms in the future is essential. Just as importantly, the University operates in a competitive market and is largely responsible for funding its own capital development with limited resources. To remain competitive, the University must ensure that its capital development costs are not disproportionate or prohibitive.

The ongoing process to maintain and update the DSS Manual is a multi-stakeholder, multi-department effort led by Lorna Gray, Director, Construction, Planning, Design & Construction. The technical content of this Manual represents the culmination of input from many individuals and various campus entities who regularly review these standards and integrate current needs and industry practices. Procedures are in place to continuously receive input and issue revisions to the Manual as needed to ensure that it remains relevant and effectively meets the goals of a highly successful University. This revision process is one of the most important components of this living document and is dependent upon the engagement of all interested campus stakeholders.

Recognition is given to all those who participated in the original drafting of this document and to the tireless efforts of those that continue working to keep this document current and highly successful.

Without our collective efforts this Manual would not be possible.

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