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# Villanova University to open hotel & conference facility

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The Main Line will get more hotel rooms and meeting spaces next month when [Villanova University](#) gets back in the lodging and meeting space industry.

The ability to attract overnight visitors in hotel rooms as well as booking events and meetings are a boon for properties and the cities they're in, and Villanova University's newest endeavor fulfills both.

[\*Exclusive: Soda tax revenue falls to \\$6.5M in April\*](#)

The Main Line school closed the Villanova Conference Center in November 2016 to renovate it into what is now known as The Inn at Villanova University, a hotel and conference facility.

***See accompanying gallery to see renderings of the space.***

The completely renovated The Inn will open to the public on July 1, and its first event will be held June 7-8, when it hosts the Vatican's "Sports at the Service of Humanity" conference, which will feature academic and athletic leaders and college sports influencers.

The former conference center had hotel rooms and meeting spaces, but the property was completely renovated from the ground up.

The cost of the renovation was not disclosed, but The Inn includes:

56 guest rooms

14 meeting rooms varying from 400 square feet to 1,600 square feet that can accommodate eight to 130 guests

A nearly 5,000-square-foot ballroom for up to 325 guests



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With The Inn, Villanova once again joins other higher-education institutions like Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., Kent University in Ohio, Rutgers University in New Jersey and University of Cambridge Churchill College in the United Kingdom that offer such facilities.

Locally, Villanova joins Swarthmore College in the hotel and conference space.

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Swarthmore **opened in May 2016 the Inn at Swarthmore College**, a project aimed at improving the connection between the college and the community and present more opportunities collaborations.

This seems to be the case for Villanova University.

“We’ve created a versatile venue space that offers a new vision of hospitality for Villanovans, academic and business leaders and the surrounding community,” said [Paul Smits](#), director of The Inn.

More supply and more spaces for meetings are good for the local economy, since hotel rooms can accommodate more overnight visitors, or heads-in-beds, that generate a greater economic impact.

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Hotel and conference facilities are also a way for companies to diversify their revenue streams and add much-needed amenities to an area.

Caesars Entertainment, for example, **opened** its \$125.8 million Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center a year after a number of hotel rooms and meeting spaces left the Atlantic City market.

This has led in part to the troubled Shore town's success in hitting **record** figures in 2016 for the meetings-and-conventions market.

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