

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS

Gateway Center Project

Overview

The primary objective of the Gateway Center Project is to enhance access to one of the richest resources in the state—the University of Minnesota—by creating a portal to this distinctive coordinate campus for visitors, alumni, prospective students and their families, along with benefactors and friends. The project entails the renovation of a historic building—one of 18 that comprise the last intact agricultural boarding high school in the country, listed on the National Historic Register. The project enhances the ability of the University of Minnesota to open its doors and provide every citizen in the state an opportunity to visit, to learn, and to utilize the rich resources of the University of Minnesota and the Morris campus.

UMM's inspiring mission as an undergraduate public liberal arts college is unduplicated in the U of M system and in the State of Minnesota. Similarly, its ability to create partnerships for the public good is unparalleled in the state. But UMM lacks adequate facilities to fulfill its land grant mission of service to students from across the state, the citizens of the region, and to its alumni.

- More than 13,000 U of M alumni live within a 100-mile radius of UMM.
- Of that number, 3,500 are UMM alumni and 800 are West Central School of Agriculture alumni.
- Nearly 40 percent of UMM students come from the state's seven county metro area.
- UMM students come from nearly every county in Minnesota.
- Two-thirds of UMM alumni reside in Minnesota.

Specifics

The \$7.5M project, with \$5M in state funds and \$2.5M in University funds, will maximize the University's impact, providing a point of entry and invitation to the Morris campus, and a portal to the University's extensive resources.

The renovation of the existing Community Services building (formally the West Central School of Agriculture engineering building) will transform a historic building with "good bones" into a highly functional Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified gateway to the University, and will:

- Provide a highly visible and easily accessible entry space for all visitors to campus;
- Provide office, meeting and visitor space—currently lacking—for the offices of Admissions, External Relations and Continuing Education and Regional Programs;
- Colocate various offices of External Relations (including Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Fund Development, Special Events, and University Relations) now scattered among four locations on campus;
- Provide meeting and office space for business and educational partners, and policymakers from the region, who come to the University and the campus as partners, learners, innovators, and clients;
- Maximize efficiency and synergy by providing shared spaces for meeting, marketing, and promotional displays.

Benefits

We anticipate the following project outcomes and benefits:

- Enhanced access to the resources of the University of Minnesota and the Morris campus for the public
- Improved leveraging of the state's previous financial investments
- Increased enrollment at UMM
- Increased private financial support for UMM
- Expanded community partnerships through UMM's distinctive and award-winning Center for Small Towns

To learn more, visit:
www.morris.umn.edu/gatewaycenter

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