

STEM Building & Renovation Capital Campaign

What is STEM?

STEM is the acronym for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath

Overview of University of Wisconsin-Marshfield/Wood County

One of the 13 two-year – collectively the UW Colleges – liberal arts transfer institutions of the UW System

The UW-Marshfield/Wood County campus was built and is maintained by Wood County and the City of Marshfield - UW System provides the faculty, staff, moveable equipment and supplies

Challenges Meeting Needs of Students, Faculty and Community

When the Aldo Leopold Science building was constructed in 1964 it was considered a state of the art science facility. The science building currently serves the areas of chemistry, biology, geography/geology, physics, astronomy, and engineering. The laboratories have essentially remained unchanged since 1964.

In the half century since then, there have been breathtaking advances in the teaching of science, technology, engineering and math. With advances in science and education, we are increasingly seeing the inadequacy of the facilities in meeting the needs of our campus and community.

A 2012 needs assessment case study evaluated the current facility and looked at the needs of faculty, staff, students and community.

- Current facilities are outdated, especially compared to our local high schools and the regional higher education institutions
- Health, safety and risk management concerns
- Academic, technology and capacity limitations

STEM Programs are Growing

UW-Marshfield/Wood County already has strong STEM programming that would benefit from dedicated space and updated technology

- Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences four-year degree requires more advanced classes for the junior and senior levels
- Premedical, biology, chemistry and other science programs
- Preparation for the UW-Eau Claire Nursing degree
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program
- On-site collaboration with UW-Platteville offering Engineering degrees
- Site to several Organic Chemistry summer boot camps through Continuing Education to serve students who are stuck in an enrollment bottleneck and are unable to get this important prerequisite course at their four-year university

Why is STEM important?

- All degree-seeking students, regardless of major, complete general education requirements in math and science
- 50% of our students major in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math
- By 2018, 46 % of STEM jobs in Wisconsin will require Bachelor degrees. (Study by Georgetown University)
- Wood County's prominent industries -- professional, scientific, and technical services (STEM) -- saw a 9.2% increase from 2007 to 2013. An additional 663 STEM jobs could be available by 2018. (2013 Wood County Workforce Profile)
- STEM education feeds into our major employers -- Healthcare, Engineering, Dairy Science, Bio-chemistry, Computer Science

Opportunities created by the STEM project

The campus' first priority is to upgrade the facility in order to provide students a cutting edge education in science, technology, engineering and math. This will prepare students for the next level of education as well as giving them a competitive advantage once they reach the workforce. Locally educated students will provide a source of economic growth and propel Marshfield and Wood County to greater prominence by fulfilling a need for skilled health careers and engineering workforce. Finally, the new building creates additional access for community meetings and events.

STEM Capital Campaign

The scope of the \$8 million project is to build a 17,000 sq. ft. new STEM building and renovate the 21,167 sq. ft. existing science building. The City of Marshfield and Wood County will invest of \$1 million each towards this project, so the capital campaign fundraising goal is \$6 million.

Campaign Timeline

- The public campaign started summer 2015
- The campaign will run through 2017 (Groundbreaking in summer 2016)

Contributions

Anyone can contribute to the campaign. Our pool of potential donors include the Marshfield area, Wisconsin Rapids area, all of Wood County and surrounding communities, as well as alumni, faculty, and staff. The fundraising committee is pursuing grants and potential planned giving for future sustainability.

Donations can be made in cash, check or credit card. It will be advantageous to receive the majority of our donations and/or commitments up front so the building timeline can be kept and volunteers know where we stand with our goal. Donors may choose to make installments over a 3 year period (2015, 2016, 2017). Contact the University Foundation for details.

For more information, visit marshfield.uwc.edu/STEM