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### Accessibility, maintenance top UMN Morris legislative funding request

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**MORRIS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Accessibility, Maintenance top UMN Morris Legislative funding request](#)

MORRIS, Minnesota — Accessibility, maintenance and preservation are on the top of the list of projects for the Morris campus that are included in the University of Minnesota’s 2022 bonding request to the Minnesota legislature.

The bonding request from the University of Minnesota totals \$935 million, which includes about \$473 million to upgrade aging infrastructure at its five campuses, \$185 million for improving campus security and sustainability, and \$65 million to expand scholarship opportunities for students, among other proposals.

The Morris campus projects are focused on preserving and renewing campus infrastructure to improve accessibility. Greater access will allow the campus both to better serve students and to maximize the useful life of its historic buildings.

The Morris improvements include installation of an elevator for the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center (MRC); roof replacement and exterior upgrades, HVAC, and bathroom updates for several buildings, including the widely used Briggs Library; and upgrades to campus-wide infrastructure such as storm and sanitary sewer.

The total request for Morris includes 26 renovation and repair projects for \$11.8 million or approximately 3% of the [total Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement \(HEAPR\) request](#) from the University of Minnesota.

Acting Chancellor Janet Schrunk Ericksen says that HEAPR funding is especially critical to the Morris campus.

“Because the core of our campus is on the National Register of Historic Places, HEAPR funding is critical. We need to protect and renew the historic buildings on our campus.”

Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Finance Bryan Herrmann notes that the proposed improvements would also help the campus on its path toward campus-wide carbon neutrality.

“Improving the efficiency of existing buildings is critical in lowering greenhouse gas emissions.”

Ericksen also notes that the Morris funding request aligns with the campus strategic plan, which includes a priority to provide full accessibility to all of the teaching, living, service and learning spaces and technologies.

“The addition of an elevator to MRC would move us closer to the goal of creating a usable environment for everyone on our campus.”

In addition to HEAPR funds, the University of Minnesota is requesting \$30 million to create a new Greater Minnesota scholarship to attract more Minnesota resident students to the U's outstate campuses, including Morris. Every Minnesota resident who attends the outstate campuses would receive a scholarship of \$3,000-\$4,000 in their freshman year and an additional \$4,000-\$5,000 spread over their sophomore through senior years.

Ericksen encourages anyone who supports the Morris campus to advocate for funding in the 2022 legislative session.

“Reach out and share your story about the impact the Morris campus has on you with our elected officials. Just let lawmakers know that the Morris campus is important to the community.”

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### **About the University of Minnesota, Morris**

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.