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Chancellor's Column

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Chancellor's Column



Morris campus HEAPR projects are focused on improving accessibility and efficiency in several buildings as well as ongoing maintenance to maximize the lifespan of buildings, classrooms, and labs.

HEAPR funding keeps these buildings useful, extending the value of past state investment while also cutting down on the higher operating costs from outdated building systems and utilities. HEAPR is a lot cheaper than a new building, and maintenance and improvements can help reduce sudden, expensive repairs.

UMN Morris has 933,000 gross square feet of facility space. Facility Condition Assessments have rated almost half of these facilities as in poor/critical condition, and the projects in the 2022 HEAPR Request address the most critical projects to address utility repairs and upgrades, HVAC control upgrades, water infiltration issues, and accessibility enhancements.

The total request for Morris includes 26 renovation and repair projects for \$11.8 million, which is a fixed percentage of the total HEAPR request from the University of Minnesota. The work that needs to be done will employ local and regional contractors—the campus is an economic asset to west central Minnesota.

HEAPR funding is especially critical to the Morris campus because the core of the campus is listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places. Several buildings on the campus date to the early 20th century, including the Multi-Ethnic Resource Center, which was built at the turn of the last century and has not been substantially updated. Greater access to this building and others will allow the campus both to better serve students and to maximize the useful life of its historic buildings.

The proposed improvements will also help the campus improve energy efficiency and so reduce operating costs while contributing to UMN Morris's nationally recognized leadership in sustainability.

The Morris campus has been a good steward of public resources as it has turned a 20th-century agricultural high school into a model public liberal arts institution. We look forward to being here for the next hundred years, serving the region, state, and well beyond.

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