



Momentum West

NanoRite Innovation Center | 2322 Alpine Road | Suite 7 | Eau Claire, WI 54703
Email | info@momentumwest.org
Phone | 715-874-4673
Fax | 715-874-4683

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a significant impact on the recruitment and retention of high-talent students to northwestern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and health sciences graduates possess crucial skillsets that meet talent needs for this region; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's current science building, Phillips Hall, was constructed in 1963 and 1966 and was not designed to accommodate modern scientific instruction and inquiry; and

WHEREAS, Phillips Hall's infrastructure is so obsolete and inefficient that, while it is only one of 33 buildings maintained by UW-Eau Claire, it accounts for 27-percent of all annual campus work orders; and

WHEREAS, Phillips Hall's teaching and research spaces are inflexible and do not allow for the interdisciplinary collaboration with outside industries that typify a modern STEM education; and

WHEREAS, conducting research alongside industry partners provides valuable experience to undergraduates that, in turn, makes them more attractive to prospective employers; and

WHEREAS, these experiences also expose students to professional settings and business organizations in the surrounding area, increasing the likelihood that they choose to live and work in this region after graduation; and

WHEREAS, the inability to meet the existing demand for academic research and laboratory spaces is a challenge for industry innovation and student recruitment and retention; and

WHEREAS, the UW System Board of Regents has approved a plan to replace Phillips Hall with a new UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project requires \$109 million in the 2019-21 state budget, including approval for \$13.7 million in private philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, this building project requires advanced enumeration of \$147 million in the 2021-23 budget, bringing the project's total budget to \$256 million; and

WHEREAS, providing state funding for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of critical economic infrastructure to support northwestern Wisconsin's talent recruitment and retention needs in STEM and health sciences fields;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Momentum West supports the inclusion of UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building in the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget as recommended by the UW System Board of Regents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that advanced enumeration for funding in the 2021-23 Wisconsin State Budget is essential to ensure this project is completed without additional inflation and that Phillips Hall can be demolished in a timely manner to eliminate ongoing maintenance and operational expenses.