



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of*  
MONTANA WESTERN

# CAMPUS STORAGE/ WAREHOUSE BUILDING LRBP REQUEST

**TOTAL LRBP FUNDING REQUEST: \$1,250,000**

## **THE NEED FOR EXPANSION**

At Montana Western, the main campus-wide storage area is currently housed in the basement of Block Hall. All campus consumables, electrical/plumbing supplies, ITS inventory, and carpentry supplies are currently stored in this location and take up over 3,500 square feet of valuable space. Due to UMW's growing science, anatomy, and kinesiology programs that require an adequate space for conducting collaborative research, this basement storage area will be converted into an academic lab as part of the Block Hall Renovation Project to meet the academic mission of the University of Montana Western.

In addition to clearing the path to repurpose the basement of Block Hall for research and teaching labs, the requested funds for this project would also address the university's need to create a central storage area that will be easier to access, more secure, and increase efficiency for the operations of the campus by constructing a stand-alone metal clad building approximately 7,200 square feet in size near the campus's main base of facility operations and Heating Plant.

## SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The triggering event for this storage project is the renovation of Block Hall. The \$12M renovation of Block Hall, approved in the 2021 Legislative Session, is underway with an architectural firm under contract for the engineering design work. The scope of the renovation includes converting the basement space, currently used for campus stores, into research and teaching labs for anatomy, kinesiology, and equine science.

The new build will house the displaced storage from Block Hall, and will also consolidate the many satellite storage areas located across campus. Centralized, ground level storage not only frees up space for academic purposes, but also eliminates the double and triple handling of materials from delivery trucks to basement storage and other locations across campus.

## THE IMPACT

*“ A new campus storage facility will significantly impact academics at Montana Western by enabling the desperately needed expansion of educational and research opportunities for our students. New faculty hires in our growing biomedical, environmental, and mathematical programs offer the capacity to secure federal and state research grant awards, which could fund student experiences beyond the classroom through research in cutting-edge science and technology. In addition to the enhanced experiential learning opportunities, these grants would also provide steady funding to Montana Western through indirect costs, which can be used to support other academic programs across the campus.*

*To be competitive for these grants, our science faculty need adequate laboratory spaces to perform research and to house grant-funded equipment for our students to use. The current space restrictions in Block Hall, which houses our science and math departments, will be alleviated if campus stores vacated the basement. In other words, a new storage building will have an immediate and positive effect on our academic programs at Montana Western. ”*

**Dr. Bradley Wood**  
Assistant Professor of Biology

Chair of the Faculty Block Hall Renovation Committee

