

FY10 UA Capital Budget Request
\$82.2 million general fund/\$20.6 million nongeneral fund

UAF Life Sciences Innovation and Learning Facility

Background

Nearly 600 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in UAF's biology and wildlife programs, making it one of the largest degree programs in the entire UA system. Yet most of UAF's existing biology teaching labs were built before 1960.

Our students are not being served when we try to teach them in antiquated biology laboratories. Our state is not being served when we don't have the proper space to conduct biological research in areas of vital importance to Alaskans, from avian influenza to sudden infant death syndrome, and from climate changes to emerging diseases.

The Life Sciences Innovation and Learning Facility is the University of Alaska's top priority for new construction, and understandably so when you consider the statewide impact of the teaching and research that will take place in the facility.

Life Sciences = teaching for Alaska

UAF's biological sciences program prepares students for high-demand careers and advanced degrees in all areas of biological sciences including animal and human health, wildlife management, physiology, ecosystems studies and others. Graduates of the program go on to careers across the state – and beyond – in jobs that affect all Alaskans.

All of UAF's biology teaching facilities date from the 1960s or earlier. Although there have been some renovations, they have not been adequate to accommodate the 25 percent growth in enrollment over the past decade, or to adapt to the dramatic changes in the subject matter covered by biology courses.

The Life Sciences Innovation and Learning Facility will provide modern instructional laboratories and classrooms for studying biological sciences, wildlife management and the effects of climate change, providing students with sufficient learning space and close proximity to the faculty and their research.



UAF's research success
depends on
immediate funding
for the Life Sciences
Innovation and Learning
Facility.



Alaska's First University

Life Sciences = Research for Alaska

Lack of sufficient research space continues to hamper UAF life sciences research programs. Since 2001, research expenditures in this area have increased nearly three-fold, yet there have been almost no new facilities constructed with state capital dollars to meet that growth. UAF's research success depends on immediate funding for the Life Sciences Innovation and Learning Facility.

UAF life sciences research focuses on:

- diseases of public health importance to the state, such as the avian influenza virus and diabetes.
- neuroscience studies on preventing sudden infant death syndrome and protecting against brain injury following heart attack or stroke.
- ecological and wildlife research to better understand climate change effects on Alaska and other northern ecosystems, and the occurrence and risk of contaminants in wildlife and in subsistence food.

Additionally, the co-location of research with the teaching component of life sciences allows for better collaboration between the two areas. Life sciences research is real and relevant to the people and the state of Alaska.

One project. Two components.

Hundreds of opportunities for Alaska

Life Sciences Innovation and Learning will feature modern academic space for more than 600 biology and wildlife degree students and more than 1,200 students who take biology courses each year. Research space will feature a series of labs for as many as 12 lead researchers who will also employ seven to 10 scientists each.

The facility's proposed location on UAF's West Ridge will allow for connectivity to the Biological Research and Diagnostic (BiRD) building and the new state virology laboratory. This location is integral to the collaborative research effort between the state and the university.

Life Sciences will utilize a two-component approach to provide flexibility for construction. The solution will connect 37,200 square feet of academic space with 50,000 square feet of research space. Once complete, space in other buildings will become available for renovation and reassignment for other programs, creating a domino effect that will benefit all students, staff and faculty at UAF.

Areas in Alaska where life science research is conducted.



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS
Alaska's First University