Huestis Hall Deferred Maintenance Project: Students Succeeding in STEM

Huestis Hall is the teaching and research hub for biology, psychology, and neuroscience. It is the UO's top priority deferred maintenance and renovation project due to its high level of seismic vulnerabilities, safety deficiencies, and systems failures, including plumbing and HVAC systems that are past end-of-life and a failing building envelope that is causing leakage, an inability to control temperatures, and increased energy costs.

The proposed project will:
Reduce the deferred maintenance backlog and improve fire alarm and suppression systems, plumbing, ventilation, and security and access controls.

Update student and faculty research spaces and resolve mechanical and electrical code violations

Improve ADA access for disabled students and staff.

Huestis Hall is home to K-12 STEM outreach and college pipeline programs for girls, first-generation, and underrepresented students to be exposed to hands-on research, mentoring, and college prep.

- Summer Program for Undergraduate Research/Oregon Undergraduate Research
- Science Program to Inspire Creativity and Excellence
- Summer Academy to Inspire Learning

Numbers to Know

$57.24 million
Total request from the state. A combination of $50.88 million for XI-Q bonds and $6.36 million for XI-G bonds

$6.36 million
Matching funds from UO, 10% of the total project cost

3,000 students
Learn and conduct research in Huestis Hall each year

45 years old
60,000 sq. ft.
The teaching and research hub for biological sciences

298
Construction jobs created from the project

$18.8 million
Will be eliminated in the total deferred maintenance backlog

$4.5 million
Will be eliminated in deferred maintenance associated with the plumbing system and roofing

2020 – 2024
Project timeline
The Impacts of Deferred Maintenance

Student Profile: Max Grice
Hometown: Portland, Oregon

"Working in this lab at the UO has opened my eyes to the opportunities that lie in the intersection between computer programming and biomedical research. But Huestis Hall is in bad shape, which negatively impacts the quality of my education and my ability to conduct research. As a computer science major, I write custom code to analyze data from experiments so that we can make clear interpretations and conclusions. The temperature fluctuations, lack of clean water, and space limitations in Huestis can delay data collection by weeks or even months, holding up our research. In addition to these problems, our experiments are in constant jeopardy due to inadequate facilities for our low-temperature freezers. UO pioneered the use of zebrafish as a model organism, but without a renovated building, we are threatening the legacy of this research program and the quality of my education and future students who will conduct research in this building."

Max is a senior computer science major. She has been conducting research with Professor Judith Eisen of the Institute of Neuroscience and Department of Biology in Huestis Hall.

For more information, contact UO Government and Community Relations at 541-346-5020 or gcr@uoregon.edu.