

A BUILDING FOR A BETTER WORLD



UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA
W.A. FRANKE
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
AND CONSERVATION

A Hub for Montana

Standing tall, this student-centric building will be a forestry, conservation and wildlife biology hub for Montana. The mass timber facility represents innovation in design and the future of sustainable forestry and forest products in the U.S.



A Place for Growth

With 60,000 square feet of classrooms, labs, gathering space and student services, the wood and glass building will be LEED-certified and designed for efficiency with UM's cold winters and hot summers in mind.



A NEW BEGINNING...

Our story began when the University of Montana launched a fledgling initiative to offer winter short courses for newly hired U.S. Forest Service rangers in 1908.

Today, we are the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, a globally recognized leader that takes a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to forest management, wildlife biology, systems ecology, wildland recreation and numerous related disciplines. We are an academic institution whose alumni and faculty regularly set records for research productivity, shape management decisions, inform legislation, and propel pragmatic solutions to problems facing the American West.

And we are poised to live our mission on an even greater scale.

Having long ago outgrown our iconic Forestry Building that was constructed in 1922 to serve just 140 students — today we have nearly 1,000 students enrolled — we are building a new landmark facility. Not just a building, it will be a hub that emphasizes our broad excellence and the role we play in the future of conservation and sustainability efforts across the state and around the globe.



The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. Today, we honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

The original Forestry Building will remain in use to complement the new structure.



...WHERE WE WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE TOGETHER



The world is experiencing significant environmental stresses. Carbon emissions, global warming, pollution of streams and devastating wildfires have become major threats to the American way of life. The University of Montana is a world leader in finding solutions to the complex problems with which we are faced.

– Bill Franke, Founder of Indigo Partners, Donor and Friend of the University of Montana



AgWest Farm Credit made a philanthropic investment in this project because we know our returns — the Franke College delivers the leaders of tomorrow and the vital research required to foster a healthy forest products sector across the western United States.

– Mark Nonnenmacher, UM alumnus, donor and AgWest Farm Credit Senior Business Advisor



The Franke College is central to the University of Montana and its work is linked to all Montanans' quality of life. The placement of this facility at the heart of campus reflects that.

– Seth Bodnar, UM President





“ This is an investment in a space that is so much at the heart of UM. For us students, an investment in this space is an investment in our education, as well as an improvement through more sustainable infrastructure, showing that we are putting our money where our mouth is at UM. ”

— Beatrix Frissell, UM Franke College junior,
Davidson Honors College student, Truman Scholar



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



The American West is at a crossroads. At UM, addressing its challenges means understanding people and the environment — working across traditional divides. Our recognized world leaders in fire, wildlife, forestry, climate, water and more do exactly that, as they guide our students with a practical and effective approach from day one.



— Alan Townsend, Dean, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation

PROJECT MILESTONES

PHASE 1 – Completed 2022

- Architects of record secured
- Building user group appointed

PHASE 2 – Underway

- Fundraising campaign launched
- Fundraising campaign goal achieved
- Construction firm selected
- Design process completed
- Montana University System Board of Regents review and consideration

PHASE 3

- Site prep
- Groundbreaking ceremony
- Construction begins
- Building ribbon-cutting and move-in



Scan the code to see a video rendering of the new building.

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