Mehdi Heravi Global Teaching and Learning Center

FY2021 State Funded Capital Development Project Request

Presented By: President Noelle E. Cockett
THE PROJECT:

- Utah’s increasingly global economy needs college graduates with advanced language skills.
- Language learning is enhanced in purpose-designed space.
- Immersive conversational comprehension occurs when languages learning, support and resources are combined into a single facility.
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SCOPE:

- Foreign Language units in the Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communications Studies (currently in 4 buildings)
- Intensive English Language Institute (currently housed separately from Foreign Languages)
- Expanded teaching, conversational, and computer writing labs (currently 1,331 NSF, proposed 2,320 NSF)
- Centralized student advising, study, and tutoring rooms (currently 0 NSF, proposed 2,300 NSF)
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TIMELY COMPLETION:

- Over 2,200 students enroll in 1000- and 2000-level languages classes each year.
- Nearly 2/3 of students in lower-division language classes are non-humanities majors.
- Commitment from department to add upper-level language courses specific to majors (Engineering, Health Services, Business, Agriculture).
- “Immersive comprehension” will occur in a languages-focused building.
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CAPACITY:

- The new facility will house language majors (~300 students) and minors (~900 students) in Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Arabic (pending R401), German, French, Russian and Japanese.
- Language needs of students in programs outside the department (~1,000) will be served.
- International students will be connected with other USU students learning their language.
- Consolidation of language faculty will allow temporary space to revert to previous uses (7,900 NSF).
AFFORDABILITY:

- Project scope is dramatically scaled back from FY19 request and now focuses only on essential space for language programs (38,500 GSF)
- Project budget is modest ($17M) but still meets critical needs
- State support is reduced because a major donor has indicated a willingness to make a significant contribution
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**PROJECT BUDGET:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE</td>
<td>$17M</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL PROJECT SPACE (GSF)</td>
<td>38,429</td>
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<td>New space (GSF)</td>
<td>38,429</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remodeled Space (GSF)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space to be demolished (GSF)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net/gross ratio</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>INCREASE IN STATE FUNDED O&amp;M</td>
<td>$332,113</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING</td>
<td>$2.5M</td>
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<td>STATE FUNDED REQUEST</td>
<td>$14.5M</td>
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Summary from the 2019 report “Making Languages Our Business: Addressing Foreign Language Demand Among U.S. Employees” (Commissioned by The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)
WORKFORCE:

- Businesses across Utah, especially on the Wasatch Front, are increasingly global in scope.
- Returning missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will expand language skills from cultural conversation to technical and written comprehension in their majors.
- Leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are supportive of the educational expansion for languages.
Dr. Mehdi Heravi

• 1963 – Bachelors Degree in Political Science, USU
• 1964 – Master’s Degree in Political Science, USU
• 1967 – PhD, American University School of International Service

• 1967 – Tennessee Technological University – teaching position
• 1973 – Vice President at National University of Iran

• Philanthropist - supports an orphanage located in northern Iran, supports several organizations related to cerebral palsy.
Dr. Heravi Receives USU Honorary Doctorate Degree
“I have faith in humanity. And hopefully I will continue to have good health so I can achieve the things I want to achieve. Having a low aim in life is a crime. The sky is the limit and humanity is the priority.”

- Dr. Mehdi Heravi