

**Biological and Computational Sciences Facility -
Computational Component**

**FY2006 Request: \$600,000
Reference No: 40041**

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Planning

Category: University

Location: Fairbanks Areawide

Contact: Pat Pitney

House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 7-11)

Contact Phone: (907)474-5204

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2010

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Once complete, Biological and Computational Sciences Facility (BiCS) will provide multi-use lab, classroom, and computational space for research and academic purposes. BiCS will be constructed in 4 phases. Phase 1, which constructed utilities infrastructure and the Biological Research and Diagnostics Facility, has been funded. In Phase 3A of construction, the Computational Element of the Biological and Computational Sciences Facility (BiCS) will provide much needed research Computational Science space for the Arctic Region Super Computer group.

Funding:	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	Total
Univ Rcpt	\$600,000	\$15,900,000					\$16,500,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$15,900,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	100,000	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	100,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

Funding secured for Phase 1:
2002 GO Bond- \$21.5M
2004 Series N Bond Proceed \$4.76M

Project Description/Justification:

As part of its primary mission, UAF is committed to the education of students, public service, and pursuit of research in the fields of health care, medical and environmental health sciences. These fields are fast-growing components of Alaska's skilled workforce and challenging avenues of research, an area for which UAF is internationally recognized. Already known for its research and educational programs in environmental physiology and molecular biology, UAF is now using recent funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to build and considerably expand its expertise in human health, medicine, and biotechnology.

UAF programs for biology and computational science are growing, however the existing science facilities on campus are antiquated, undersized, and obsolete for today's learning and research needs. UAF does not have space to accommodate newly funded programs and projects, and the growth of existing programs.

The April 2001 report by UAF senior academics and researchers recommended consolidating undergraduate biology training and instruction and research spaces in a new state-of-the-art facility with ready access to technologies offering high-speed, high-capacity data processing and visual modeling.

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The vision of the new Biological and Computational Sciences Facility (BiCS) is to integrate appropriate spaces for contemporary research, undergraduate instruction, and meeting and academic offices to maximize opportunities both for learning and operational efficiencies. The lack of appropriate space has limited admissions in biotechnology fields, reduced opportunities for funded research, and created a severe inability to meet the facility requirements of prospective faculty and staff in academic study and research.

Currently only five general classrooms have capacities for 15 to 50 students. In addition, only one auditorium with a 96-seat capacity is available on the entire West Ridge. The current number of classrooms on West Ridge is not sufficient for current needs of all departments located on the west end of campus. The main lower campus classrooms are currently heavily used during periods of peak instruction.

To meet the challenges of the Strategic Plan, facilities of adequate size, quantity, and quality are needed. Facilities for biology-related instruction and research, that offer appropriate environmental systems and technology for contemporary laboratory activities and animal care, must be provided. In addition, a high-quality bioscience instruction, training, and research institution must have resources to support analysis, storage, and retrieval of bio-informatics data. Without appropriate facilities, research dollars cannot be obtained and the best research investigators and instructional staff cannot be retained or recruited to provide top-quality instruction, training, and research for Alaska.

Construction of new science space will allow UAF to meet the challenges of the Strategic Plan, consolidate strong, growing programs in adjacent technology-appropriate facilities, meet the challenges of new research technology, and increase success in securing talented investigators and funded research. A new facility is the most economical solution to meet the critical demand for additional space to accommodate bioscience instruction and research laboratories. The new facility would also permit consolidation of undergraduate biology and wildlife teaching laboratories on the West Ridge.