**Project at a Glance**

- Renovate facilities to respond to the need for more nurses, particularly at the registered nurse, bachelor-degree and graduate levels.
- Provide space for a clinical practice center to respond to health care needs of an increasingly diverse population in this geographical area.
- Provide facilities for a community-based dental clinic that will expand services to underserved populations while providing additional opportunities to train students.

**Project Description**

Renovation of the Minnesota State Higher Education Center will provide clinics, classroom space and modern laboratory space to meet the needs of higher education and workforce training in the Moorhead area.

Maintaining quality health care education programs depends on having adequate clinical experiences for students, which this clinical practice center will provide. In addition, the center will provide opportunities for faculty and area professionals to remain current in their clinical practices. The speech and hearing sciences program has both an academic and clinical component, which are affected by the lack of space. Clinical access also is severely hampered by a lack of adequate nearby parking for patients, especially disability parking.

Modernized clinics and laboratory space are needed for teaching relevant skills for health care related jobs in employment areas where the need is high. The Higher Education Center will house allied health programs from Minnesota State University Moorhead and Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

The two partners will offer integrated allied health associate and bachelor’s degree programs at this facility.

The Tri-College University graduate nursing program also will be able to expand. Tri-College is a partnership among three higher education institutions in Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead: Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead and North Dakota State University.

The center, located in Moorhead south of Minnesota State University’s main campus and north of the Minnesota State Community and Technical College campus, will provide space for the nursing, dental and speech language hearing science departments and clinic including:

- Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic
- Regional Assistive Technology Center
- Auditory Processing Disorders Clinic
- Parent-Child Communication Program

The center also will be a welcoming place for students who are part of the Gateway Program, a multidisciplinary studies program for students who do not meet state university admission criteria but are considered to have the academic ability to complete a bachelor’s degree. This program, offered jointly by Minnesota State University Moorhead and Minnesota State Community and Technical College, currently does not have sufficient classroom and ADA-accessible student services space on either campus.

Through the Gateway Program, services and courses will be delivered at the new Higher Education Center. The new center will provide alternative higher education pathways through both Minnesota State University Moorhead and Minnesota State Community and Technical College, including certificate, diploma and two-year and four-year options.

**Lead Institutions:**

- Minnesota State University Moorhead
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- Minnesota State Community & Technical College
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An existing building will be renovated for the future Minnesota State Higher Education Center to enhance nursing education and related health care programs. Clinical services for underserved populations will be expanded and disability access will be increased at the new facility.