Arthur Lakes Library Space Proposal: Interactive Group Study & Instructional Space

This proposal seeks to inspire a donor to imagine the possibilities that exist within a dynamic and technologically savvy space; a place where team-based scholarship doesnâ€™t simply subsist, it flourishes. The creation of a physical environment which intentionally nurtures collaboration is a priority for the Library. Providing more than 94 hours of access each week, the proposed flexible, technologically interactive group study and instructional space is the first of its kind at Colorado School of Mines (CSM). The space we envision will be located within the walls of the current Library, while conceptually extending into a new Library. This is a highly visible and utilitarian project that will have a significant impact on the quality of student life in the Library, and is recognized as an important naming opportunity for a donor. The project cost is benchmarked at $100,000 with a funding commitment within three months and project completion in six to nine months.

The primary goals of this project are to:

- utilize moveable, sound-proof walls to create a large space that can be separated from the rest of the Reference Room;
- realize the ability to divide this space into two equal portions, creating space for two large groups (8-16 people);
- equip this space with technology and power points to support Library-based instruction and group study initiatives;
- furnish it with flexible, highly mobile furniture to accommodate a variety of classroom or study group configurations.

The proposed partition walls and furniture purchases will easily transition into a new Library building, making this a prudent use of funds, now and into the future.

The Arthur Lakes Library is the preeminent reference facility on campus with a full complement of print, electronic and technical resources to foster team-based problem solving, an academic trademark of the Colorado School of Mines. Beginning with EPICS and culminating with Senior Design, all Mines students participate in team-based educational platforms designed to stimulate collaboration, exploration and innovation throughout their academic careers.

In the Library, students have the academic and research tools which support comprehensive project development and problem-solving. However, books, journals and maps are only a starting point. With the creation of a flexible, technologically equipped space, we will create the opportunity for Minesâ€™ students to capture and utilize synergistic problem-solving skills. We know studentsâ€™ space needs are significant and continually growing. Private funding of this $100,000 project will enable the Library to: equip Mines students with the resources that will allow them to creatively meet every challenge; advance the overall utility and profile of the library within the campus and among our peers; and leverage additional resources for increased private and university-based support.