

MSU Exploration, Research and Learning Environment Proposal

February, 2023

Mississippi State University (MSU) respectfully requests your support for the *Exploration, Research, and Learning Environment* (ERLE) at Mitchell Memorial Library. As a technologically designated university, MSU recognizes that a cutting-edge research library is a vital asset for enhancing the institution's impact on the state, regional, and national economies. The ERLE will facilitate the institutional mission of MSU, a public land-grant institution, by providing a comprehensive platform that fosters student success, encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, and expands the reach of research and innovation through the following new spaces, infrastructures and methodologies:

- Leading edge technologically enhanced spaces that provide a supportive environment for students, especially those at risk, to succeed academically, improve retention, and achieve degree goals. The library will serve as a recruitment tool and will enable students towards higher-paying careers, employment, and yield increased economic impact for Mississippi.
- Incubator spaces for industry-supported student and faculty design, new technology adoption, digital literacy and innovation projects. These spaces will promote interdisciplinary collaboration, where students and faculty from engineering, agriculture, the arts, and sciences can work together to solve real-world problems and find community.
- Enhanced maker spaces for outreach, prototyping, creativity and commercial opportunities. These spaces will foster community building and connectivity, enhancing relationships among the university, local citizenry, and small businesses.
- Immersive technology resources including data visualization walls, mixed media reality, and interactive spaces for learning and teaching. These resources will enable faculty and student research ensuring that the institution and library stay at the cutting edge of technological innovation.
- A comprehensive research data storage repository infrastructure for researchers and global data collaboration.
- A digitization lab to increase access to digital collections globally, including university archives and special collections, the Grant Presidential Library, and the Lincolniana Collection.
- Integrated spaces for health and wellness 2.0. These spaces will cater to the holistic needs of students, providing an environment that promotes self-care, mindfulness, and mental health.
- Support for supplemental instruction and the first-year experience to drive retention and elevate graduation levels.
- Environments that serve student needs, including flexible technology spaces, quiet individual touch down areas, and small group work stations that enhance student collaboration by creating learning zones and providing a third space for interdisciplinarity and community building.

The ERLE will support MSU's land-grant mission and positively impact the state of Mississippi by creating a best in class academic research library that enables higher education for our citizens.