



SHANNON ZIMMERMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 30th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9th, 2021

Contact: Rep. Shannon Zimmerman
608) 266-1526

ZIMMERMAN SECURES FUNDING FOR UWRF (SCI TECH) PROJECT

Madison, WI...State Representative Shannon Zimmerman (R-River Falls) announced today that he has secured \$111.73 million for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Science and Innovation Center (Sci-Tech) project as part of the State's capital budget. The State's powerful Joint Finance Committee approved the funding yesterday.

The proposed project will provide a new home for laboratory learning and research in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology and neuroscience, departments which will be relocated from Centennial Science Hall and Agricultural Science Hall. The majority of the infrastructure systems in those buildings are original to the facility and the instructional spaces are inadequate in size, quality and configuration as they do not support modern educational practices and active learning, which are vital to Wisconsin's thriving economy and workforce needs.

"As an area business owner who has employed hundreds within our community over the years, I have first-hand experience understanding the composition of business and the local workforce," Zimmerman said. "My company had a long-standing employer-student partnership with UW-River Falls, therefore, I speak from experience when I say that this school both understands and appreciates the importance of more tightly aligning education with employment and how to capitalize on our geographic proximity to a large metro area."

Zimmerman was able to secure \$2 million in planning funds during the previous biennial budget which led to the full funding of the project this cycle.

"UW-River Falls is not only an integral player in helping us address our current workforce shortage, we are strategically positioned close to the Twin Cities to be a state leader in the output of talent," remarked Zimmerman. "I carried this message to Madison as a member of the Joint Finance Committee and we successfully obtained the investment in our new Science and Technology building. Finally, I want to thank the leadership from UW River Falls, the business community and local governments for their support and advocacy of the project."

Representative Zimmerman represents the 30th Assembly District which includes parts of St. Croix and Pierce Counties.

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