At the crossroads of computing and the creative arts

In 2022, Montana State University announced a $50 million gift from the Gianforte Family Foundation for construction of a new three-story building to house the Gianforte School of Computing and computing-related fields such as cybersecurity and creative industries such as film, photography and music technologies.

MSU's Gianforte School of Computing currently offers ten different degree tracks at all levels of undergraduate and graduate studies, including data science, cybersecurity and computer science degrees, each preparing students to meet the growing demand in technology and computing-related fields.

Our goal for the new building, Gianforte Hall, is to create classroom, lab and studio spaces with thematic design elements that evoke the historical context of computing and inspire curiosity and determination in our students. Amid the cutting-edge technologies accessible in Gianforte Hall, students will learn and gain experience working in industry-style environments.

Robotics Lab will serve as a distinctive research and teaching lab on Level 1 for the study of subjects at the intersection of computing and physical reality.

Dual-enrollment Classroom providing technology to enable distance learning in engaging ways for students from Gallatin College and Montana high schools.

Software Factory industry-style environment where students can work with professional staff from local and regional companies. Students learn to develop web and mobile applications or other hands-on projects, gaining experience using work flow features and systems.

Student Success Centers that offer spaces (on Levels 1 and 3) for students to study and work together on projects and seek help from their peers and tutors with course assignments.

Studio C, a two-story space on Level 1 will be designed with adjacent audio and production control rooms for film and photography students. Additional spaces on Level 2 include an F&P post-production lab as well as a recording lab for music and music technology students.

Additional Labs for study and research of cybersecurity, augmented and virtual reality, data science, and AI and machine learning are planned for Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Signature Conference Room uniquely designed to accommodate meetings of smaller groups of faculty, staff, students, industry partners and university supporters.

Donor Recognition Wall to honor generous and loyal supporters of the project and related programs.

Exterior LED Display for Seventh Street to share greetings, events and student achievements.

Breaking ground

Construction funding for Gianforte Hall is in place and a groundbreaking this spring south of Norm Asbjornson Hall is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 2 p.m.

Large Classrooms (on Levels 1 and 2) will have the capacity to accommodate a variety of instructional and learning styles and can be reconfigured as lecture rooms, team-based learning spaces or seminar rooms. These spaces will be thematically designed around the history and work of Grace Hopper and Alan Turing.

Outdoor Plaza creating a distinctively welcoming space integrated into the Grant Street renovation project.

Learn more about how to write your own page of Montana State University history.

MSU Alumni Foundation
Chelsey Wilson, Director of Development
chelsey.wilson@msuaf.org | 406-994-4178