

Alfred University to receive \$1 million in NYS funding to renovate South Hall

12/14/17



South Hall: The addition, left, will be demolished. The original 1909 portion will be renovated.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo in Albany Wednesday announced Alfred University will receive \$1 million through the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) to renovate South Hall on Park Street in the Village of Alfred.

“We are very grateful to Governor Cuomo and to the members of the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council and the Empire State Development organization for their confidence in our University’s ability to make a significant contribution to the long-term economic growth of the region through such a renovation,” said President Mark Zupan.

“We are pleased with the news for two reasons,” Zupan added. “First, the funds will help us renovate South Hall as a business development center that will facilitate our interactions with industry, through among other things, research projects and short-course educational programming, so as to foster economic development. As we initially envision it—and this is subject to change as we get input from our broader University community—the business development center will give businesses a single point of access to University resources presently found in our Inamori School of Engineering, College of Business, School of Art and Design, and other programs.

“Second, the grant will allow us to create an impactful space from what has been a historically meaningful building that has been shuttered for the past 20 years. South Hall was built in 1909 as our village’s K-12 public school. The building was expanded with the addition of a gymnasium in 1929. When the Alfred-Almond Central School District was created more than 60 years ago and a new school was built on Route 21 between Alfred and Almond, South Hall was turned over to our University. We used the building for many decades for classes and it also housed what was called the ‘Women’s Gym,’ until the McLane Center opened in the early 1970s.”

“We are grateful for the opportunity we have, thanks to the REDC \$1 million grant, to both preserve a historic structure and convert it to productive use again, for the benefit of our State,” Zupan said. “We now look forward to seeking broader University community input as well as to securing the additional funds needed to complete the project.”