

AU receives challenge grant from Emerson Foundation

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A \$500,000 challenge grant from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation will help Alfred University raise the necessary funds to undertake a \$6.8 million renovation of Herrick Library, designed to revolutionize the scope and delivery of information services across campus and into the community. "We appreciate the generosity of the Emerson Foundation in awarding this challenge grant to Alfred University," said President Charles M. Edmondson. Under the terms of the gift, Alfred University must raise another \$2 million from other donors in order to receive the full amount from the Emerson Foundation. "We intend to make Herrick Library a signature building for our campus, one that will meet the educational needs of Alfred University's students well into the 21st century," said Edmondson. The existing library, one of two on the AU campus, was built in 1955 with a gift from the John P. Herrick family. With the exception of a wing added in 1978, little has been done to upgrade the 36,000-square-foot facility in the past 25 years. "More important than space and physical appearance is the library's traditional role as the heart of an intellectual community," said Edmondson. "While the Herrick Library as it is has certainly met the needs of generations of Alfred University students, technology has changed both its role and the way in which students and faculty make use of the facility." The proposed renovation will reinforce the library's position as the focal point of AU's intellectual community, creating learning spaces for large seminars to smaller study groups. The entire library will have mobile wireless technology. The University has already completed its planning phase and retained QPK Design of Syracuse, NY, an architectural firm that specializes in academic libraries to do the design, which the University anticipated will be completed this spring. A substantial lead gift from the Herrick estate began the fund-raising effort for the project. With the gift from the Emerson Foundation, the University has raised \$5.3 million toward the \$6.8 million project. "This challenge grant from the Emerson Foundation will give us the impetus we need to complete our fund-raising and begin construction," said Edmondson.