The state has appropriated $2.9 million in capital improvements funding to North Central Missouri College over the last decade.
North Central Missouri College

North Central Missouri College’s (NCMC) main campus is located in Trenton. The college has a service area that extends into 16 northwest Missouri counties and includes the towns of Maryville, Bethany, Trenton, Chillicothe, and Brookfield. In addition to its main campus, the college has off-campus sites in Cameron, Chillicothe, Brookfield, Bethany, Maryville, and St. Joseph. Approximately 1,700 students attend the college.

Capital Improvement & Facilities History

In fiscal year 2015 and 2016, North Central received $1.4 and $1.5 million, respectively, for renovations to its historic Geyer Building. The interior of the building was updated with new wall finishes, entrance and interior doors, and floor and ceiling finishes. A new learning commons space was added to the building, and the library was renovated. New restrooms were added on each floor, and office spaces were reconfigured. Exterior improvements include tuckpointing and new concrete walkways. The renovation serves to secure a historic building that is highly valued by the community, enhances the learning experience, opens opportunity for the public who use this facility, and reduces the cost of building a new structure. North Central has not received any other state funding for capital improvement projects in the last three decades.

Facility Challenges

NCMC has undertaken several large-scale facilities projects over the past decade that have greatly improved and upgraded building conditions and the student learning environment. However, the college still uses several buildings that present significant challenges, including poor energy efficiency, outdated HVAC systems, lack of fire alarm/sprinkler systems, continued structural deterioration, and poor design/inability to meet program needs.

Several of the college’s buildings were acquired due to their close location to the downtown campus. These buildings were previously used for other business purposes, such as an insurance company, a movie theater, a childcare business, a dental office, and a car dealership, and have been modified for use by the college. As NCMC has grown, these outdated buildings are no longer adequately meeting the needs of students and are in need of significant upgrades and/or renovation.
North Central Missouri College has identified the following as the College’s top three priorities for the future. The total state request for these projects is approximately $7-14 million.

1. Campuswide Improvements/Demolition

Several sidewalks around campus are in need of repair; many years of applying de-icing products to the sidewalks has caused them to deteriorate and fail. Control joints, expansion joints, and broom-finished concrete surfaces have deteriorated to the point where they have become trip hazards. Winter freezing and thawing cycles have pushed the sidewalks apart vertically and horizontally, presenting a safety issue. Stone retaining walls that have been in place for many years have shifted under stress, causing them to bow outward and in some cases break. As a short-term measure, the maintenance department has occasionally reset some of the cap stones to help realign some of the walls, but over time they move outward again; this is partially because the walls were constructed before retaining wall drainage was introduced. New walls will have drainage pipe along with clean rock backfill to prevent future outward movement. Additionally, some walls are delaminating due to the use of weather-vulnerable soft stones, letting moisture penetrate the stone face and increasing the likelihood of failure.

North Central Missouri College owns buildings along Main Street that are in disrepair and no longer used for instructional purposes. These structures once housed downtown businesses and have an outdated storefront architecture, making them difficult to re-purpose and they need to be demolished. Removing these buildings will free up space that can be used to construct a new NCMC building, parking lot, or green space for student activities. Additionally, other old and deteriorating buildings and houses on campus are in need of demolition. Removal of these structures is necessary due to unsafe conditions and will foster future campus development.

Finally, the downtown campus needs multiple general repairs to sidewalks, parking lots, and retaining walls. Cracks and heaving in sidewalks and parking lots present possible trip hazards and ADA compliance issues, forcing NCMC to continually grind and fill concrete structures. In addition, masonry retaining walls surrounding Geyer Hall are cracking, leaning, and/or deteriorating.

The HVAC system in Hoffman Hall needs to be replaced. The original building was built in 1985 and expanded in 2001. The HVAC system consists of multiple residential units serving multiple classrooms and office spaces. The building does not have zoned thermostatic control, leading to significant energy inefficiency and over/under cooling and heating of classrooms and office spaces. A new HVAC system will allow for individual room control and for monitoring of performance and usage, and will promote energy efficiency while reducing costs.

Request from State: $500,000-800,000
2. Student Services Building

Student support services—including financial aid, admissions, advising and counseling, registrar, student accounts, textbook and supplies, and IT services—are located in separate buildings. This dispersion of services undermines accessibility and student success. These buildings are outdated, in need of significant repair and renovation, and present challenges in terms of delivering adequate services to students.

A new student services building will consolidate several student support services in a central location and eliminate multiple outdated buildings (Building B, Willis Alexander Student Center, bookstore, Frey Administrative Center, and the Ritze Building). This will promote energy efficiency by eliminating multiple sites with old electrical, HVAC, and plumbing systems, which present possible security/safety issues.

The student services building will also provide a student commons area, which is not currently offered on the NCMC campus. The building will house a practical and fine arts center featuring art classes and housing the NCMC’s art gallery. Finally, the building will house a performing arts area, allowing the college to develop and offer new educational programs.

3. Barton Campus Educational/Conference Building

The Barton campus occupies 130 acres and is located one mile south of Trenton. The campus consists of three buildings—the Lager Building, which houses a multipurpose room, a complete lab, and classroom space; the Kuttler Building, which is a large livestock containment facility; and the Metcalf Mechanical Building, which houses equipment for agricultural mechanics and maintenance equipment for farm operations.

This project will complete NCMC’s long-range plan to add two small classrooms, a large multi-tiered meeting room and demonstration area for student projects. The building will include a large concrete floored area which will provide for showing animals and an area to provide meeting space for community groups. It will be located on the north side of the existing parking lot. This project will meet the existing needs of the NCMC campus and Grundy County, which does not have an indoor area to show animals. It will enable NCMC to sponsor livestock competitions for its 15,000 square mile service area, providing valuable experience and connections to the college’s agricultural students.

The conference/visitors center will free up space and allow the Lager meeting room to be used as a classroom. Approximately 75 meetings each year will be relocated from Lager, including those relating to agriculture, business, and education. The space will also provide opportunities for larger career fairs, expositions, and conferences for up to 300 people. The design will be a larger open area, set up to bring in large agricultural equipment, and which could be converted into smaller meeting areas for a variety of purposes.