Background

Historic building, historic discoveries

• The John Tate Laboratory of Physics was built in 1926 on the iconic Northrop Mall.
• A cutting-edge building in its time, Tate has been home to six Nobel Prize recipients.
• Tate’s observatory is a regional draw, recently hosting over 1,000 people to view the transit of Venus.

Heart of science teaching

• Today, the 200,000-square-foot Tate struggles to serve more than 3,500 students taking STEM courses each year.
• On average, 50 physics demonstrations are performed daily for 2,500 students in Tate’s lecture halls.

Serving growing science programs

• Enrollment has doubled in 2013 in entry-level courses for earth sciences majors.
• The School of Earth Sciences and the School of Physics and Astronomy have grown to occupy seven buildings.
• The physical fragmentation of these schools thwarts collaboration.
• Growth has been addressed with limited additions and renovations, which have led to accessibility challenges.

Project Description

Preserve Tate’s historic exterior

• Renew the classical architecture of Tate’s façade.

Renovate Tate’s interior

• Improve accessibility between floors.
• Construct three new lecture halls to provide better viewing for students.
• Modernize building systems to provide safer and more comfortable learning environments.
• Create right-sized labs to support modern research.

Consolidate a majority of both the School of Physics and Astronomy and the School of Earth Sciences within Tate
Benefits

Bolster STEM research and teaching
- The project supports the Minnesota Legislature’s emphasis on STEM education.
- Minnesota companies are eager to hire STEM majors who are trained to be versatile problem solvers in science and engineering.
- Improved labs will expand research opportunities for students.
- Introductory earth sciences classes will be able to incorporate more demonstrations.
- The labs will support research such as improved core and metal sampling useful to Minnesota mining industries.

Foster learning communities
- Centrally located labs and classrooms for scientific disciplines will promote student success.
- Physical proximity will promote collaboration and lead to higher quality research and learning.

State investment: $56.7 million
- University funding: $28.3 million
- Total project cost: $85 million

For More Information http://z.umn.edu/6stepsforward