



Campaign for Community: The Final Phase Case Statement

The High Mountain Institute has combined the best of traditional and wilderness education to turn good students into extraordinary adults. Now two decades old, HMI is a national leader. Institutions continually seek to emulate the outcomes HMI achieves at the nexus of extraordinary academics, the natural world, and a community of shared responsibility.

**HMI changed my life. I found the healing power of nature, learned leadership and communication skills, and discovered my passion for sustainable living."
— HMI Semester alum**

In all aspects, HMI is a uniquely successful, cutting-edge school helping define what is integral to a twenty-first century education. The experience HMI's diverse student body enjoys is unparalleled in its quality and depth: in nationally normed surveys, HMI students report feeling intellectually challenged and affirmed in ways that soar past their contemporaries enrolled in top independent schools. They also learn leadership skills that help them apply their knowledge and new-found inspiration every day.

The HMI experience is as lasting as it is formative. Years after they leave HMI, our alumni credit this institution with having a greater impact on their maturation into achieving, contributing adults than other formative experiences, including their K-12 schools, colleges, work places, organized sports teams, and, in many cases, even home lives. These adults report they developed their sense of responsibility, awareness, leadership, confidence, and duty to community and the environment on HMI's campus and in the mountains of Colorado and canyons of Utah.

Ensuring HMI remains as vital tomorrow as it is today is essential. Three years ago, HMI created a master plan that explored how our campus should evolve to deliver on the promise of teaching and learning in the twenty-first century. Priorities became clear: our three current classrooms limit HMI's ability to meet the needs of students. The limited work spaces we provide teachers and staff incentivize them to work from home rather than engage with students. Students have to socialize and study in the same spaces, creating challenges for those with learning differences or who require quiet space. In the coming years, HMI will address these limitations by constructing a new **Faculty and Student Center** with additional classrooms, student work spaces, and offices. This final phase of our master plan will ensure our facilities match the ambitions of our program.

**On that day, on the first expedition, I learned more than I had during any other day of school in my life.
— HMI Semester alum**

The promise that drove the creation of HMI back in 1995 motivates this effort as well. Under the inspired leadership of our Head of School, Danny O'Brien, students continue to turn into extraordinary adults who make an impact in their communities and who strive to preserve the natural world. Their work demonstrates that an investment in HMI today pays great dividends that reach far beyond the boundaries of HMI's campus.

We are proud to say that HMI Trustees and our larger community have already committed almost \$500,000 of the \$2.5 million dollars we will need to complete this project, the final part of a seven million dollar effort to transform HMI's campus and align our mission with our facilities. HMI's success is due to the individuals and families who believe in the power of this school and who make this institution a top philanthropic priority. We hope you will consider supporting HMI's *Campaign for Community: The Final Phase* to make this special asset an even more extraordinary one.





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Scope and Need

Our new 4,000 square foot Faculty and Student Center will join the East Building and the Barnes Building in creating a vibrant horseshoe opening up to the vistas of Mts. Elbert and Massive. The principle of "simple in means, rich in ends" that has always guided capital construction at HMI will extend to this project. The building will seamlessly match the veneer and feel of campus while enriching every aspect of this institution. It will add to HMI:

- **Three classrooms** to help us repurpose existing spaces in our current facilities. Once they come online, students will be able to use our library—currently pressed into service for classroom needs—as a quiet study space. They will be able to more readily align their classes at HMI with sending schools as we utilize science equipment standard in high-school science programs; HMI is currently unable to offer such options, like a wet lab, for lack of storage space. We will also have a full-time rations room to better manage the risks inherent in the rise of food allergies among students.
- **Dynamic work spaces for students** that encourage all types of learning at HMI. No longer will students seeking areas for group work or quiet, individual study need to compete with piano playing or rambunctious Jenga games in Who's Hall. Dividing classes into small groups will not mean students are sprawling into hallways or forcing their peers to leave social spaces. Instead, students will have access to areas that both foster collaboration and enable focused, individual work. An increase in work space options will mean that students have the flexibility to choose environments that work best for their goals and learning style.
- **Appealing work spaces for teachers** that inspire our faculty members to work on-campus. Our community works best when adults are available to students for both academic and social-emotional mentoring. Currently, ten teachers share office space designed for fewer than half this amount; they avoid the area when possible citing distraction and overcrowding. Doubling teacher workspace will match the professionalism of our extraordinary faculty members and encourage them work on campus, thereby making them more available to mentor students and expand the strength of our community.
- **Twenty-first century facilities** that meet our students where they are. Our new Faculty and Student Center will feature gender-neutral restroom facilities and other simple, yet meaningful, amenities that will help every student feel at home at HMI.

The Larger Effort

Our Student and Faculty Center is the last piece of the campus master plan HMI developed in preparation for the celebration of our 20th anniversary in 2018. In addition to this new facility, HMI has constructed—or is in the midst of constructing—two additional cabins, a bus and maintenance facility, the Head of School home, and several single family and condominium-style residences for faculty and staff. We have also accounted for the eventual maintenance needs of these facilities by growing our endowment specifically to care for them. The estimated total cost to fund the campus master plan is over \$7,000,000. To date, believers in our school have inspired our efforts by committing almost \$5,000,000 to these projects.



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Cost and Timeline

We estimate this final phase of construction will cost \$2,000,000. While our fundraising progress will dictate the timing, we hope to complete construction of the Student and Faculty Center by 2023:

<u>Building</u>	<u>Anticipated Start Date</u>	<u>Funds needed</u>
Head of School home	2015	\$700,000 — funds committed!
Four townhomes	2018	\$1,500,000 — funds committed!
Three single family homes	2019	\$1,300,000 — funds committed!
Student and Faculty Center	2022	\$2,000,000 — fundraising underway
Maintenance Endowment		\$1,500,000 — funds committed!

Funding

The *Campaign for Community: The Final Phase* is driven by major gifts—naming opportunities are available for the Faculty and Student Center. We rely on the generosity of lead donors who believe in our mission and this effort to ensure the continued strength of our school. As we work to complete our campus master plan through major gifts, HMI will continue to prioritize growing the HMI Fund, our annual campaign to support financial aid and employee compensation. We are proud, through lead gifts and the generosity of our larger community, to report that the HMI Fund has tripled in size since the beginning of our capital campaign.



Vision for the Faculty and Student Center

The High Mountain Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization. All donations are tax-exempt subject to the limits prescribed by law. Donors should be aware that the HMI Board of Trustees may redirect campaign gifts in the future, if necessary, from the specified fund/project to another higher priority need. If you are currently employed by a company that matches contributions, please supply HMI with the necessary information to secure the match.

