INTRODUCTION & OVERALL GOAL

The Dr. Calvin R. Fremling Floating Interpretive Center & Classroom will be dedicated to creating a greater understanding of the broad multifaceted nature of the Mississippi River and the people and places it touches. Our goal is to enhance our relationship to the River through research and education. Tens of thousands of elementary, secondary, college university students and community members will benefit from this resource which will provide a gateway to exploration and knowledge.

As scholars and as people who live and work near it, we see the river as a laboratory, a canvas, an archive, a stage, a text, a great complex thing worthy of contemplation, interpretation and protection.

The Dr. Calvin R. Fremling Floating Interpretive Center & Classroom project seeks to raise $200,000 in private support to build a distinctive and extraordinary boat offering “University-on-the-River” classes to learners of all ages. The goal is to have the boat in the water by spring, 2013.

A TESTED EDUCATIONAL TOOL

The new Dr. Calvin R. Fremling Floating Interpretive Center & Classroom will enable WSU faculty and staff to inspire and educate future generations about the significance of the River, providing experiential learning opportunities through varied curriculums. We will seek greater knowledge of the history, environment, literature, natural and social sciences, folklore, visual and performing arts and economics of the Mississippi River through research, teaching and outreach.
THE BOAT

SkipperLiner in La Crosse, WI is designing and building the boat for WSU. This 49 passenger, double-decked, steel-hull boat measures 17’ X 60’ with a shallow draft. The boat is enclosed and air-conditioned on the first deck, and open-air with a hardtop canopy on the second deck. It will be equipped with two restrooms, a small galley, two small patios (bow and stern), and a fully maneuverable gangplank, for ease of loading and unloading passengers and equipment, and will be a fully functional classroom including Wi-Fi access. These are some of the features that will make this vessel ideal for both educational and social events centered on teaching and learning about the Mississippi River, and help add to the distinctive character of the educational opportunities WSU provides.

FUNDING MODEL

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>49 PASSENGER COAST GUARD APPROVED VESSEL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60’X17’ STEEL COMMERCIAL GRADE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
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<tr>
<td>SkipperLiner Discount</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSU’s Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSU &amp; WSU Foundation Contribution</td>
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<td>Private Support needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Endowment (anonymous gift)</td>
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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Consider making an investment in the future of the Mississippi River by partnering with Winona State University. You can make a difference by supporting a project that will educate, inspire and encourage collaboration throughout the region. Make a greater impact by making a pledge over 3-5 years. Please contact the office of University Advancement to learn more about how you can make a gift to this project.

A GIFT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Mississippi River is a unique resource and one most worthy of education and conservation. WSU’s Dr. Calvin R. Fremling Floating Interpretive Center & Classroom is much more than a boat. It’s a partnership of students, educators, organizations, businesses, individuals and community groups who share a commitment to the River that flows through our landscape and our lives. It’s about creating relationships, not only with the river, but with those who share the same passion for the mighty Mississippi. It’s also an opportunity to honor the legacy of Dr. Calvin Fremling ... a man who devoted his life to the Mississippi River habitat and was passionate about educating future generations about his greatest passion. Please be a part of a project that will educate, inspire, preserve and provide opportunities for future generations.
**HOW IS THIS BOAT IMPORTANT TO WSU’S MISSION AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS?**

WSU’s mission is to provide distinctive, high-quality education that emphasizes academic competence, personal responsibility and the application of knowledge to improving our world. The acquisition of a new state-of-the-art floating interpretive center and classroom vessel as a replacement to the previous boat - the *River Explorer* sold in 2009 will enable WSU to once again provide rich, hands-on educational and interpretive experiences about the Mississippi River to thousands of students of every age within the region. Greater awareness and stewardship of the River as a national resource is expected.

**WILL THE BOAT BE AVAILABLE ONLY FOR WSU ACTIVITIES?**

While the new boat will be primarily used for undergraduate education and other WSU related activities, ample opportunity will be available for local and regional community groups, businesses, and corporations to rent the boat for educational excursions on the River.

**HOW WILL LEARNERS GET “HANDS-ON” RIVER EXPERIENCES?**

Past experience with the previous boat showed many and varied hands-on learning experiences on the River were provided. For example, faculty in the Colleges of Education involved both pre and in-service teachers on interpretive excursions regarding instruction on environmental curriculum design. Also, education and science faculty collaborated to host various K-12 classes in “Project Wet,” “Project Wild,” and “Project Aquatic Wild” activities on the River that involved water sampling and identification of species among other things.

Further, the College of Liberal Arts faculty taught courses on photography, literature, theatre, and the sociology of the environment while on board. In some cases, overnight trips were scheduled that engaged the students more completely with studying a variety of aspects of the River ecosystem.

Over fifteen academic programs and departments within WSU utilized the *River Explorer* to enhance learning opportunities before it was sold in 2009. The number of programs utilizing the boat for academic purposes was growing at the time use was discontinued due to Coast Guard required upgrades.
WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO OPERATE THIS BOAT?
Fully licensed and experienced river pilots will be retained as captains of the new vessel. Insurance underwriters will no doubt make this requirement. Additionally, considerations of public safety dictate that only a licensed, capable and experienced pilot, should pilot a boat of this size.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO OPERATE, STAFF AND MAINTAIN A LARGE BOAT OF THIS SIZE?
Based on usage and costs of the previous vessel it is estimated that the annual budget for the new vessel would be about $60,000 - $65,000. This estimate includes costs of operation, staff, insurance, mooring and seasonal storage. Appropriate hourly fees will be charged to cover all operational costs including periodic maintenance.

WHERE WILL THE BOAT BE MOORED?
Presently, dockage is available on the Winona levy. Consideration is being given to relocating the boat off the main channel when not scheduled for use.

HOW IS THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?
Presently, two community members and three WSU retirees serve on the fundraising committee for the new boat. Conversations with community members about the boat, its design and potential usage within the community have occurred and will continue as the project progresses. Community members will also be invited to contribute to the fundraising campaign as an investment in a potential tourist attraction to the Winona community.

WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP?
Maintenance of the boat, recruiting and training the crew, and scheduling will be among the responsibilities of the lead pilot of the boat. Appropriate compensation will be provided to the lead pilot for these services.

WHEN WILL THE BOAT BE AVAILABLE FOR USE?
Once the last of the fundraising has been completed, the boat order will be made and construction can begin. If the remaining $200,000 can be raised by January 1, construction will commence by Skipperliner in LaCrosse, with anticipated completion in the late spring, 2013 barring any delays.

WILL THE BOAT BE NAMED?
The boat will be named in honor of the late Dr. Calvin Fremling, WSU Professor Emeritus of Biology. Dr. Fremling was a noted and beloved educator, scientist, and River enthusiast. His book, *Immortal River: The Upper Mississippi River in Ancient and Modern Times*, serves as one of the most comprehensive and readable accounts of the Mississippi River ecosystem available today.
I intend to make my gift as follows:

Single Payment:
☐ Cash $_______________ or ☐ Check $_______________

Please make checks payable to: Dr. Calvin R. Fremling Floating Interpretive Center & Classroom
(mail to WSU Foundation, P.O. Box 5838, Winona, MN 55987 or make a gift online at www.winona.edu/give)

Credit card:
Card #______________________________________________________ Ex. date______________ CVC: ____________

☐ Monthly installments through EFT (if you check this box, you will receive the appropriate paperwork via mail.)

☐ Pledge $_______________

Annual Installments:
Annual Installments of ______________ over 2 3 4 5 years (for gifts > $1,000)

Mail my pledge reminders:
☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-Annually ☐ Annually (include month) ______________________

☐ My employer’s matching gift form is enclosed. Find out if your company matches gifts: www.winona.edu/matchinggift

☐ Yes, the University/Foundation may publish my/our name(s). Names of donors giving $1,000 or more to the Floating Classroom project will be recognized on a plaque displayed on the boat.

☐ I prefer to remain anonymous (if you check this box, you will be contacted by development staff to clarify your request.)

Name(s) as it should appear in print: ______________________________________________________________

Address                                                                          City                                          State                                           Zip
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Phone(s)
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Email(s)
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Print Name(s)
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Signature(s)
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Date: ____________________