



Student  
Priority  
#1

## 2014 Legislative Session: Newell Hall/Student Learning Commons

A top priority for the University of Florida is funding for the renovation of Newell Hall. The requested funds will be used to update a 100 year old facility in order to address construction code deficiencies and to create the Student Learning Commons which will provide for much-needed space for students to actively engage, to collaborate and to learn.

### Project:

- Total Cost: \$15 Million
- Scope of Work: 30,382 GSF
- Cost per GSF: \$493.71
- Source of Funds: Capital Improvement Trust Fund





## Newell Hall History:

Built in 1909, Newell Hall is the 3rd oldest building on campus. It was renovated into a research facility for IFAS in the 40's and no longer meets today's building codes and standards for research facilities. Due to deferred maintenance and life/safety issues, the building has been closed since 2012.

Newell Hall will be renovated to create an environment for study and gathering for both undergraduate and graduate students, thus the name Student Learning Commons.

The facility will provide a 24/7 secured, hi-technology environment which will include student study rooms/space, food vending services, library staff office for student services, and outdoor study courtyard with wireless access. Support services for students will be a key consideration when staffing the facility as well as providing for the appropriate level of maintenance support as identified above.

## Return on Investment (ROI):

- Rather than constructing a new facility, a campus facility that is currently closed, will be renovated and re-programmed for use by students, thus saving the taxpayers of the state.
- Interest rates are at record lows, which would allow the university to maximize the use of a funding source, currently dedicated in law, for the purpose of addressing student facilities.
- Efficiencies will be realized in operating costs due to the following investments:
  - New central HVAC system
  - New Roof, windows, elevator
  - Electrical Upgrades
  - Masonry Repair
  - ADA compliance