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Ensuring a Tradition of Excellence

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May 15, 1996

GRANT GIVES UM SPACE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EXPANSION

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana—Missoula now has the space to expand its information technology capabilities, thanks to a five-year, \$750,000 grant from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation.

Through its foundation, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. will provide funding for the lower level of UM's new Davidson Honors College Building as a home for the University's Information Technology Resource Center. The \$750,000 gift to UM's capital campaign, "Ensuring a Tradition of Excellence," has boosted the campaign over the \$39 million mark. The honors college project, including space for the ITRC, is a priority of the \$40 million capital campaign, which is operated by The University of Montana Foundation.

"As a major business partner with the state of Montana, we are pleased to support the University's innovative information technology program," said Richard A. Russack, president of the BNSF Foundation. "We hope that many BNSF employees and their families will benefit from this new center in the years ahead."

Plans for the center developed from the University's 1992 Strategic Plan for Information Technology, which noted that an evolving information environment requires the University to expand its capabilities in instructional technology, including interactive distance learning, information access, multimedia production and multimedia information delivery systems. The

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ITRC is envisioned as a centralized "one-stop-shop" for faculty and departments wishing to use technology to enhance instruction programs.

The BNSF Foundation gift will enable the technology center to "take the University to new levels of technological sophistication and provide vast resources on this campus as well as all schools throughout Montana," UM President George M. Dennison said.

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