



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

College of Business

TERRY BISHOP STUDENT LEADERSHIP LOUNGE

A HOME FOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP, CONNECTION AND BELONGING

PURPOSE & VISION

The Terry Bishop Student Leadership Lounge will be a high-visibility hub for student organizations and emerging leaders within the College of Business. More than a meeting room, this space will serve as a home base for leadership development, collaboration and relationship building. The Leadership Lounge will encourage students to stay on campus, connect with one another and take ownership of their college experience.

Named in honor of Terry Bishop, Ph.D., M.S. '82, the lounge reflects a commitment to mentorship, student empowerment, and the belief that leadership is built through connection, conversation and shared purpose. Dr. Bishop was a professor of human resources in the Department of Management for over three decades, having retired in 2020. Besides being a phenomenal instructor to tens of thousands of students, Dr. Bishop was deeply involved in student organizations as the faculty advisor for NIU's chapter of the Society for Human Resources Management for over 25 years. He also provided tremendous service to the department, college and university in innumerable roles. Dr. Bishop spent decades helping students connect, engage and thrive at NIU. This lounge honors that legacy by creating the kind of supportive space he helped make possible for so many.

THE NEED & OPPORTUNITY

Proximity Matters: The Holmes Student Center is too far from Barsema Hall to meet the day-to-day needs of College of Business students and leaders. When students do not have an easily accessible space to network and engage with their peers, spontaneous collaboration declines. Establishing a student leadership lounge on the main floor of Barsema Hall removes this barrier and integrates leadership activity into students' daily academic lives.

Space Creates the Opportunity to Connect: Barsema Hall has limited comfortable spaces where students can eat, talk and build relationships. Existing seating is primarily open and in high-traffic areas, which isn't conducive for meaningful conversation or extended time on campus. The Lounge fills this gap by providing a welcoming environment that encourages students to stay and connect.

Leadership Is Built in Informal Moments: Leadership development is not confined to formal meetings; it happens through informal interactions such as shared meals, casual conversations and spontaneous brainstorming. A dedicated and intentional space will allow these moments to happen more consistently, strengthening student organizations through frequent and meaningful collaboration.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND ELEVATING THE COB EXPERIENCE

The Terry Bishop Student Leadership Lounge stands to benefit individual students, the student organizations they lead and the College of Business.

Students: A dedicated, student-centered space enables deeper engagement and strengthens the leadership pipeline.

- **A place to lead, plan, and connect:** The Lounge offers a reliable home base where student leaders can meet, coordinate activities and collaborate across organizations without competing for shared campus space.
- **Stronger relationships and a greater sense of belonging:** By encouraging organic interaction and peer-to-peer support, the Lounge helps students form meaningful connections that increase confidence, motivation and campus involvement.
- **A hub for leadership growth:** Access to resources, mentoring opportunities and informal learning experiences support students in developing practical leadership and communication skills.

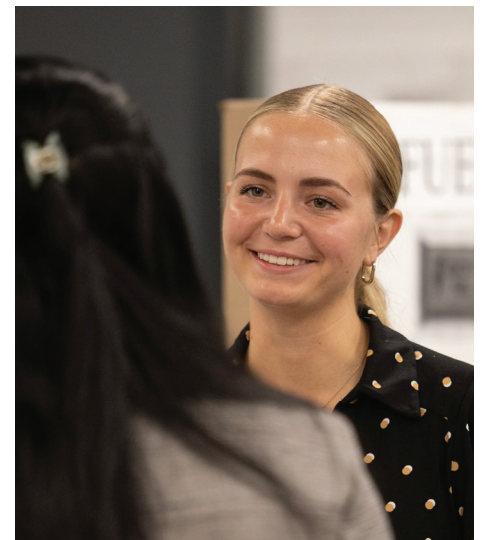
Programming: The Lounge creates new opportunities for structured programming and spontaneous collaboration.

- **Leadership development experiences:** Workshops, speaker sessions, case discussions and peer-led trainings can be hosted regularly in a setting that supports active learning.
- **Student organization operations:** Officers can conduct executive meetings, planning sessions and cross-organization collaborations more effectively.
- **Advising and mentoring:** Faculty, staff and alumni mentors can meet students in a welcoming environment that fosters open dialogue.
- **Community-building activities:** Social gatherings, celebrations and informal drop-in hours help build community and make leadership more accessible.

College of Business:

The Lounge enhances student experience while serving as a tangible symbol of the COB's commitment to leadership development.

- **Increased student engagement and retention:** Purpose-built spaces signal an investment in students, creating a more vibrant, collaborative culture that encourages students to stay involved and persist through graduation.
- **A visible, high-impact space for students, alumni and donors:** The Lounge becomes a showcase area for tours, events and donor engagement, demonstrating the College's vision and strategic priorities in a highly tangible way.
- **A platform to elevate student organizations:** Giving organizations a home strengthens their operations, visibility and impact across campus.





VISUALIZING THE TERRY BISHOP STUDENT LEADERSHIP LOUNGE

The proposed lounge will be located on the **Main Floor of Barsema Hall**, just outside of the Department of Management. This area is one of the most frequently traveled student corridors in the building, making it highly visible and easy to find. This placement intentionally signals that **student leadership matters** — not tucked away, but central to the College of Business experience.

Key features of the lounge include:

- **Approximately 60' x 20' (1,200 sq. ft) in size.**
- Designed for **maximum flexibility** and multiple simultaneous uses.
- **Glass wall frontage** to create transparency, energy and visibility.
- **Key-card access** ensures security while allowing extended student use.

The lounge will be intentionally zoned to support student organization meetings, collaboration and informal community building that allows students to transition easily from planning to connecting to relaxing in one shared space.

DESIGN FEATURES:

- Glass wall frontage to showcase active student leadership.
- Warm, modern finishes that feel welcoming — not institutional.
- Durable, student-friendly furniture designed for high use.
- Integrated power and charging stations throughout.
- Sound-absorbing materials to balance energy with functionality.
- Branding elements that tell the Terry Bishop story and celebrate student leadership.

TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Large interactive flat-panel display with wireless sharing.
- Ceiling-mounted speakers for presentations and events.
- High-speed Wi-Fi optimized for group use.
- Digital signage highlighting student organizations, leadership opportunities and upcoming events.

COST AND FUNDRAISING

The estimated renovation cost is **approximately \$300,000**. A targeted fundraising effort will be organized to generate the resources needed to fund the project.

Financial support will be sought from three key audiences:

- College of Business and Department of Management Alumni.
- Corporations with a relevant College of Business connection, especially those that may derive value from additional visibility and engagement with business students.
- Local businesses that may have an interest in providing both cash support as well as in-kind contributions (e.g., furnishings, food and beverage supplies, equipment, etc.).

TIMELINE

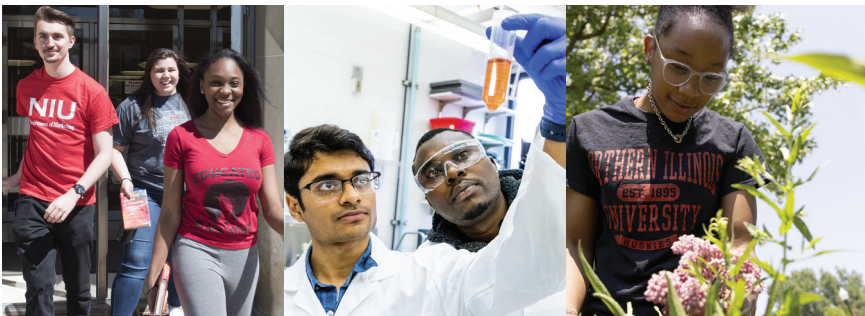
Because the designated space is currently vacant, renovation is expected to begin in summer 2026, with completion targeted for the fall 2027. This schedule allows sufficient time for design finalization, procurement and construction while minimizing disruption to ongoing academic operations.



FORWARD

The Campaign for NIU

In the heartland of Illinois, where innovation meets tradition, Northern Illinois University stands as a champion of landmark research, academic excellence and community pride. For decades, NIU has been synonymous with progress, nurturing generations of leaders, thinkers and innovators. As we look to the future, NIU embarks on a transformative journey to propel itself and its students forward.



FORWARD: The Campaign for NIU is the largest comprehensive fundraising initiative in university history.

With a mission to empower students through educational excellence and experiential learning, NIU pursues knowledge, shares our research and artistry, and engages communities for the benefit of the region, state, nation and world. Driving this work is our aim to let nothing stand in the way of our life-changing learning opportunities, degrees and careers.

Realizing NIU's vision and empowering the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators will require all Huskies to answer the call. Collectively, we can ensure that NIU remains a champion of opportunity and excellence for years to come, inspiring positive change, and making a lasting impact on our community and beyond.

We invite you to join us on this journey **FORWARD**. Together, we can empower the future of NIU.

Find out more about

FORWARD:

The Campaign for NIU

by visiting

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❏ QUESTIONS?

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