



The history and tradition of Golden Gopher basketball and Williams Arena are as rich as any program and venue in the country. From its signature raised floor, to the distinctive terraced seating decks and stately open steel beams high above the court, “The Barn” possesses a unique atmosphere that modern facilities just can’t replicate.

As our basketball programs have evolved, so has the need for modern development facilities. The landscape of college basketball has changed significantly over the years; in order to stay competitive, both nationally and in the Big Ten Conference, Gopher basketball needs a permanent and state of the art development center.

### **Critical to competitiveness**

With basketball development facilities either completed or under construction at every other Big Ten institution, Minnesota is in danger of falling behind when it comes to competing on the facilities front. Recruiting is the lifeblood of all college athletic programs. And a new basketball development center, designed specifically to complement our long-term plans for Williams Arena, would certainly enhance our coaches’ ability to recruit the next generation of Gopher basketball legends. However, instruction and development of our student-athletes is also paramount to the success of our programs. In addition to helping our coaches accomplish each of these goals, a new basketball development center would also free up space and court time for our other programs that use Williams Arena and the Sports Pavilion. At the same time, a new basketball development center will provide potential future expansion space for student-athlete academic services.

### **Where We Stand**

In October of 2009, on the heels of a successful campaign that saw the University exceed its fund-raising goals for the construction of TCF Bank Stadium, Gopher Athletics began laying plans for a new men’s and women’s basketball development center. Over the past year, predesigned concepts and plans have been drawn up and a feasibility study has been conducted. The results of the feasibility study completed this past December indicate a construction goal in the \$15 million range, and the project is currently being value engineered to meet that recommendation. The Golden Gopher Fund has also held numerous discussions with prospective donors to discuss gifting opportunities and with the help of Coach Smith and Coach Borton plan to aggressively pursue naming level gifts to jump start the project.

### **Roadmap for Success**

The basketball development center, along with the new Siebert Field baseball stadium, is the top capital fund-raising projects for Gopher Athletics. The early phases ensuring that the project becomes a reality for our programs are well under way as we search for those crucial leadership level gifts. The goal of the leadership gifts phase of the project is to obtain at least 50% of the necessary \$15 million needed for the completion of this project. Once Gopher Athletics completes the leadership phase, we will proceed to the major gifts fundraising phase. Once the major gift phase is complete, Gopher Athletics will move into the final grassroots fundraising effort of the campaign. This process is very similar to the efforts used to complete fundraising for TCF Bank Stadium and our goal is to have the necessary funds in place to break ground on the center in early 2013.