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MERRICK HALL RESTORATION REMARKS

Wednesday, June 26, 2013
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When the faculty came together several years ago to discuss the evolution of the curriculum, several principles stood out. Foremost among them was the idea of connections.

Now several years later, we have created frameworks for connections, like Travel-Learning classes and Course Connections. These innovations have sparked excitement in both students and faculty, and curricular changes like these deserve a unifying space. Merrick Hall is an ideal location to serve that role. Its central location in the academic heart of campus allows it to unite students and faculty across disciplines.

Choosing to invest in renovating this historic space reflects our commitment to both our past and our future. We are a liberal arts college, full stop. At the same time, we are actively investing to help our students see the many ways they may apply their liberal arts education. In effect, we are beginning with what has stood the test of time, just like this building, and renewing our commitment to it.

My faculty colleagues and I are grateful for this gift. It awakens this great, historic building from dormancy, and allows us to engage, challenge, and connect with the students of Ohio Wesleyan – as they connect with the world – for many decades to come.