



# THE PROMETHEAN

A member of the Associated Collegiate Press

Covering Campus for Over 100 Years

Friday, February 16, 2024 | Volume 104 - Edition 1

www.uws-promethean.com

## Biden Announces More Than \$1 Billion Towards Twin Ports Infrastructure

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President Joe Biden made a surprise visit to Earth Rider Brewery in Superior, Wis., on Jan. 25, announcing that his staff has delivered on their promise to contribute more than \$1 billion towards replacing the John A. Blatnik Memorial Bridge, which connects Superior to Duluth, Minn.

It was just under two years ago where Pres. Biden last visited Superior. There he announced his plan to invest in infrastructure across the United States at the Yellowjacket Union on Mar. 2, 2022.

This investment in infrastructure has been long expected since the House of Repre-

sentative passed the infrastructure bill in a 228-206 vote, on Nov. 5, 2021.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will lot \$550 billion over fiscal years 2022 to 2026 towards rebuilding transportation, updating alternatives for cleaner energy, providing broadband internet access to more rural communities, and updates to other existing policies.

“This investment is creating good paying jobs, fixing our roads and bridge, making sure clean water is coming out of the faucets and connecting more Wisconsinites and Minnesotans with reliable high-speed internet,” said



“Folks, I’m here today to talk about something that doesn’t get enough attention. The progress made to invest in America, and the American workers, and the American product. Investing in America that’s what we’re doing,” Biden said at Earth Rider Brewery.

Photo by Isaiah Wiita

Wisconsin U.S. D-Sen. Tammy Baldwin.

Representatives from both Wisconsin and Minnesota attended the press event at Earth Rider Brewery, which sits at the Wisconsin end of the Blatnik Bridge. In 2023, both states contributed \$400 million to pay for the estimated \$1.8 billion the project is projected to be. The federal government announced \$1.1 billion in aid to rebuild the bridge. “For decades people talked about replacing the bridge, but it never got done. Until today,” Biden said.

The Blatnik Bridge was first constructed

in 1959 and opened to traffic in 1961. The bridge averages 33,000 vehicles each day and an estimated \$4 billion in goods each year. “The flow of people so critical that small businesses rely on it,” Biden said. “Good customers, employers, goods, and businesses it’s critical.”

Business around the Twin Port rely on both the Blatnik Bridge and the Richard I. Bong Memorial Bridge to deliver goods and services. Earth Rider Brewery’s CEO Tim Nelson is a fourth-generation Superior native. “The bridge is critical to my business,” said Nelson. “The rebuilding of the bridge will be critical

to my business’ growth and the growth of the local economy. That matters to the people here, it matters to our future.”

Along with the reconstruction of a new bridge, the project looks to add an additional 10,000 union construction jobs to the Twin Ports. The new bridge is planned to be wider, with shoulder pull-off space, creating more room for larger trucks and oversized loads. It’s also planned to add a pedestrian cycling path and slower and smoother on and off ramps.

Check out the full story on our website!



MnDOT proposed the new bridge to replace traffic signals at the current I-535/US 53 intersection. Two roundabouts will connect Hammond Ave., N 3rd St., and Grand Ave. to the new bridge.

Photo courtesy of MnDOT

## Broaden Your Horizons at Scotland with Study Away Program

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Tired of the Twin Ports and wanting a new college experience and still pay UWS tuition rates? The University of Wisconsin-Superior and the UW school system offer numerous study abroad and student exchange opportunities for its students.

Starting Fall 2024 you can “Experience Scotland,” which is administered by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The semester-long program that takes students to Newbattle Abbey in Dalkeith, a town six miles southeast of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

If you’re interested in joining the Promethean, members meet every Tuesday at noon. For other inquiry, email [promethean@uwsuper.edu](mailto:promethean@uwsuper.edu)

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Newbattle Abbey is a sixteenth-century historic building and formerly a Cistercian monastery. Students stay in dorm-style accommodation on the grounds during the program and can explore Dalkeith as it is within walking distance from the abbey. Beth Austin, an instructor and advisor in the Communicat-

ing Arts department, is joining the group for the Spring 2025 semester. “It’s in walking distance to town, students get a free bus pass, students get a free pass to access Historic Scotland,” Austin said

about the abbey.

Students from over ten different majors can participate in Experience Scotland. There is a required course called Scotland: Society and Globalization. Students have four other modules to pick for the semester that can enrich their time in Scotland.

Currently in Spring 2024, some of these other modules include Drawing, Personal and Community Health, and Scotland: Heritage and Culture.

Austin is teaching Digital Storytelling and Social Media during her time with the pro-



Wisconsin students may qualify for up to \$1,000 in grant money to help fund their Study Away experience if they already receive financial aid.

Photo contributed by Beth Austin

gram. She said she is excited to see how the students learn about a new culture through her course.

In addition to taking classes in a different environment, those who participate can expect to experience Scottish culture through regular field trips. Austin said there are a variety of suggested activities for the group to attend weekly. Field trips are subject to change due to avail-

ability and interest from students.

Enrollment is currently open for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025. Information regarding costs and additional details for the program are on the Study Away portal, accessible through the UW-Superior website with campus log-in details.

If interested in enrolling, contact Anya Russom at [studyaway@uwsuper.edu](mailto:studyaway@uwsuper.edu).

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