Abstract: For our capstone project, my partner Evan Deschenes and I want to design and create a housing website for students so that it is easier for them to find what they're looking for. We want the website to be visually appealing and have simple features that allow the user to find a place to live within minutes. We need some planning and we set a high bar for what we want to accomplish in the end. Some our goals include setting up a stand in the Union to show a visual representation of our website, handing out surveys to Freshmen/ Sophomore students looking for housing and also spreading our idea through social media and word of mouth. The reason this capstone project will succeed in the Orono area is because Orono does not have a website that is well designed and has the features that a college student agrees with. The website will be a convenience to students and it will assist them as they search for off-campus housing in Orono. Students will definitely appreciate how much time and effort they will save with our website.

Project Description: We are looking to assist upcoming college students with off campus housing around our college campus, and specifically targeting freshmen and sophomore students who are looking to move off-campus in the beginning. Throughout our entire college experience so far, myself and my partner have had countless issues when attempting to find housing off campus, and within a budget we could afford. After years of issues and talking to more students than we can count everyone has agreed if there was a single platform or website that would allow students to search one database that contains all of the listings in our local community everyone's lives would be a lot easier come fall every year. There are a couple platforms to try to find housing currently including a FirstClass conference and the few websites nearby real estate companies control, however they do not seem to get updated. There are a lot of key features which

would make our housing website stand from our current options of finding housing. One of the biggest issues is that the current options do not update themselves. We intend to get all of the realty companies in the area that rent out to students from UMO to allow us to post their listings on our new site, this would make it much easier to hone in on a single site. Our website would update itself when a rental has been made so that new customers would not have the issue of looking at potential apartments or houses online, that are not actually still available. All of the websites that exist currently don't have good search criteria when you first enter the site. Our site would allows students to directly search what they're looking for all on the first page when they enter the site for example the exact type of housing whether it be an apartment or house, or how long the student is looking to rent for whether it be the entire year or a sublet for part of the year. The site would then bring the user to the next page which would show a map at the top of the page with a star or some symbol representing the available listing in the whole town giving the user a different perspective to see where they can rent from, I know personally to it is more visually appealing to see all of the rental postings since most kids do know they area, they just do not know street names. On this second page the listing will be shown in a more minimal way with something like the address, number of bedrooms/baths, and the rent cost. Upon clicking an individual listing the user would be brought to a third page. The third page would be the informative page that gives the users all the information they need to know about the address they are viewing including # of bedrooms, heat, washer and dryer hookups, parking, monthly cost, landlord or company and whatever necessary information may be needed. If the listing requires the user to fill out an application or contact a landlord than the needed information will be provided. We've done a lot of

research so far and we know that housing applications have been created before, however, none of the applications have all the features we want.

Budget and Budget Justification: We are requesting $1000 for a budget for this project. This grant would extremely benefit our project and allow us to accomplish our project goals because the grant money would go towards hiring a coder. We need help funding our project because we are solving a common issue that all students face when they are looking into off-campus housing. After we finish our research and start to design the exact layout we want for our project, we're definitely going to need a coder to step in and complete that aspect to our project. In order to help, Evan and I have agreed to take a separate programming class outside of class in order to improve our programming skills.