Higher Education Notebook: Valley City State University, Mayville State University have fall housing shortages
North Dakota’s two smallest universities have unique housing shortages this fall.

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Valley City State and Mayville State both are reporting enrollment increases at the same time that residence halls are under construction.

At Valley City State, seven male students are temporarily living in hotels because the halls are full.

The university has its largest freshman class since 1988. The number of students living on campus is up 10 percent since last year.

Meanwhile, Snoeyenbos Hall is closed for renovations.

President Steve Shirley said there could have been even more students living in hotels, but officials anticipated the congestion and encouraged upperclassmen to find other housing.

This is a temporary challenge for the university. The campus will gain 130 beds next fall after renovations are complete.

Mayville State is assigning as many as four students to a room. Enrollment is close to an all-time record for the campus while half of Agassiz Hall is under construction.

Darcie Ellertson, assistant director of housing, said the campus is able to accommodate everyone, but it’s tight.

“We are definitely utilizing every space that we possibly can,” Ellertson said. “Our students have been wonderful in terms of being willing to put up with the crunch.”

Agassiz Hall is expected to be complete for the spring semester, opening up 84 more beds.