

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Riverpoint Biomedical and Health Sciences Building

2009 – 11 Request:	\$250,000	Project Type:	Program (Research)
Institution Priority:	#20	Project Phase:	Pre-Design
		Gross Square Ft:	86,500

The Riverpoint Biomedical and Health Sciences Building is a joint WSU/Eastern Washington University request to address research and instructional program growth in the health sciences.

The Riverpoint campus is evolving as a biomedical teaching and research center which is the primary focus of the universities and the community at Riverpoint. WSU and EWU are collaboratively aligning higher education programs and services to address the workforce and research demand of the Spokane health care sector (hospitals, clinics, and private research institutes).

Spokane has a compelling need for additional biomedical research and education space. This building will further enhance the efforts of WSU, the UW and EWU to forge partnerships expanding access to medical and health science research and education in the Inland Northwest. These research facilities will attract competitive grant awards and innovations advancing therapy and treatment.

The building includes high-priority space to consolidate WSU health science programs, to expand biomedical research including an animal research facility, to house contract research operations such as the Applied Sciences Lab and to strengthen infrastructure for high performance computing. The Biomedical and Health Sciences facility will also strengthen interdependent program and research connections between WSU Pullman and WSU Spokane (the WWAMI medical program, for instance), and initiative associated with new federal funding, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund and private partnerships.

With growing workforce shortages in the health sciences in the next decade, WSU and EWU will face continuing pressure to expand high demand educational and research programs in nursing, pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, dental hygiene, speech and hearing, and occupational and physical therapy.

As WSU Spokane's health sciences capacity expands, it is important to provide additional capacity in the new facility for clinical research trials. The Spokane campus is ideally situated for access to patients and/or clinical subjects. Space needs include lobby and reception space, exam room, offices for health care providers such as dictation/charting stations, space for simple lab procedures and restrooms. Some exam rooms will be set up for the delivery of physical care (gathering history and performing physical exams) and other rooms will be set up as counseling rooms. Other space considerations include easy patient access, drop off and pick-up points and access to low-cost parking.

A vivarium is a critical component of the new facility. It will support research growth, the recruitment and retention of faculty in WWAMI, nursing and pharmacy as well as research appointment in the molecular sciences, neuroscience in the general expansion of health and life sciences.

The Biomedical and Health Sciences building, in conjunction with the existing Health Sciences building, the Nursing building and local hospitals, support a shared vision for the health sciences and professions working together. This academic health sciences center will provide central leadership in establishing the Riverpoint campus as a national force in selected areas of the biomedical and health sciences.