

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Vancouver Applied Technology Classroom Building

2009 – 11 Request:	\$38,676,000	Project Type:	Program (Growth)
Institution Priority:	#1	Project Phase:	Construction
		Gross Square Ft:	56,250

Construction funding is requested for 2009-2011 to build a new Washington State University engineering teaching and research facility that will meet some of the most pressing employment needs of southwest Washington and the entire state in computer science and electrical engineering.

The proposal, prepared in cooperation with the Washington Technology Center (WTC), is the number one capital budget priority in the WSU system.

Design is underway for the new four-story engineering teaching and research facility for high demand areas that will also make improvements for existing electrical engineering students in Vancouver, a program initiated by the Governor and legislature in 2007. It will also allow for the necessary expansion of computer science programs at WSU Vancouver.



The building includes specialized laboratories, engineering classrooms, departmental offices and support spaces to serve students in computer science and engineering that are in high demand by the state's high technology industries and includes several general university classrooms to serve the growing campus.

Enrollment on the Vancouver campus is expected to double from 1,488 in the year 2000 to nearly 3,000 students in 2009. By 2019, headcount enrollment is expected to reach 6,000 (4,500 FTE).

The Silicon Forest of Washington is centered in Vancouver with over fifty firms representing 58,000 employees in 2008 located in the Portland/Vancouver area, making this capital project a top priority for the state and surrounding region.

Degrees most often requested by Southwest Washington employers are in the electrical engineering fields. However, the specialized lab facilities associated with programs in digital systems, semiconductor devices, and networks, do not currently exist on the Vancouver campus or in the vicinity.

Having electrical engineering lab facilities on campus is a required element of program delivery and accreditation. Lab facilities must be available to students by their junior year. The timing of this construction request would provide the laboratories required to serve the students already in the pipeline and the planned enrollment growth. The 2009-11 Operating Budget Request includes additional general and high demand enrollment funding for WSU Vancouver, some of which is specifically targeted for engineering student enrollment.

A companion silicone chip research and development facility for the Washington Technology Center (WTC) is being designed concurrently by Washington State University for an adjacent site.

The collaboration between WSU and WTC would not be possible without the new Applied Technology Classroom facility. WTC's development of this facility on campus exemplifies WSU Vancouver's goal of developing partnerships with local business and industry to enrich the learning environment and contribute to the economic and cultural development of the region.

While one state goal is to educate more students in high demand fields, another goal is to promote economic growth and innovation. This facility will provide physical space to work toward both goals and specifically supports one area of emphasis (semiconductor clusters) in the Governor's September 2008 Economic and Workforce Development Conference.