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The 2007-2009 State Construction Budget Request

Infrastructure for Life:

Completing the Pullman Life Sciences Building and Supporting a Long Life Cycle for Existing facilities is the WSU construction priority.

The 2007-2009 WSU capital budget priority list contains no surprises and virtually no deviations from what are regarded to be state and university priorities. Washington State University proposes capital projects that complete the Pullman Life Sciences Building, extend the life of existing older structures, protect the lives of students and employees, and provide the vital infrastructure that is the lifeline to serving the state as a premier research university.

The Pullman Life Sciences Building Tops The List

WSU's largest and top capital construction project, is \$58 million to complete the Life Sciences Building. It is the number one construction priority of the Public Baccalaureate Prioritized Capital List, the combined list of projects submitted by the University of Washington, Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Western Washington University, The Evergreen State College and WSU.

The request will finish construction that the governor and the Legislature initiated with a \$10 million appropriation in 2006. With that authority, WSU began clearing the site and constructing the foundation for the building last May and will complete that work next month. It now awaits a second appropriation so that the building can be completed in 2009.

The four-story building on the Pullman campus will bring together academic disciplines in innovative laboratory settings in the life sciences, predominately researchers on National Institute of Health-sponsored projects. The research building will immediately bring some long-sought relief to the Pullman campus that has less than half of the laboratories required for hands-on learning by undergraduate and graduate students. And the building will contain the types of programs that have been identified by Gov. Christine Gregoire's Life Sciences Discovery Fund that was approved by the Legislature.

State support thus far for this project has been helpful in securing matching federal funds. The Murdock Trust has awarded a grant for \$475,500 for a core research laboratory, contingent on the legislature appropriating the remaining funds for construction. The U.S. House of Representatives has voted for a \$35.6 million appropriation to complete an additional biotechnology building that would be constructed nearby and share core laboratory facilities with the Life Sciences building. The U.S. Senate has recommended a smaller appropriation

but Washington's congressional delegation is optimistic that this matching building, known as the Agricultural Research Service Building, will be moved ahead by the federal government.

Other Highlights of the WSU capital budget include:

- **WSU's \$38.9 million minor works preservation project and \$17 million minor works program is in the top tier of the Public Baccalaureate Prioritized List, ahead of all major construction projects.** Minor works program money extends the life of existing facilities and infrastructure, and allows older facilities to be retrofitted for cutting-edge research and education. Likewise, preservation money extends the life of buildings by replacement or repair of elevators, roofs, fire alarms, HVAC, pumps, masonry, windows, flooring, painting, and building network cabling and electronics. The request includes health, safety and code projects needed to protect the lives of students, faculty, staff and visitors and to comply with occupational/public health, and environmental regulations.
- **The Pullman Campus is experiencing a critical shortfall in electrical capacity and a deficit of chilled water production that is solved by WSU's \$11.5 million utilities extension.** This package is ranked as the fourth project overall by the six public baccalaureate institutions.
- **Extended service life and greater capacity to underground utility lines is provided by the \$15 million Library Road Project. It is the seventh ranked project overall by the institutions.** The corridor project also includes accessibility and safety improvements for enhanced pedestrian movement and decreased vehicular traffic.
- **Expanded access for Vancouver freshmen and sophomores.** Additional requests for university-wide infrastructure, intermediate preservation, and a WSU Vancouver classroom building all rank among the top 26 projects recommended by the institutions. Construction of the \$24.4 million WSU Vancouver building will be necessary to provide general classrooms and computer laboratory spaces for delivery of lower division programs and to accommodate enrollment growth. The building is WSU's second highest priority for new building construction.
- ***Some items on the WSU priority list propose to design projects that would be built in a later biennium. The top design priority for WSU is Biomedical Sciences.*** The building will replace crowded, outdated biomedical space with an appropriate facility for targeted programs including neuroscience, pharmacology, cancer research and toxicology.
- **Renovation and completion of several existing buildings are slated for the ensuing biennium including finishing a Prosser laboratory building for enology.** Other projects include renovating core campus buildings for academic purposes.

Olympia Update is produced for persons interested in state government developments affecting Washington State University. For more information call: Larry Ganders, Assistant to the President, 360-956-2165. From WSU campuses, dial 8-2165.