

## WSU VANCOUVER APPLIED TECHNOLOGY/CLASSROOM BUILDING

2009-11 Request: \$38,676,000  
Institutional Priority: #1

Project Type: Program (Growth)  
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 in computer science and electrical engineering, in southwest Washington and across the entire state.

**This proposal is the number one capital budget priority for the entire WSU system (all campuses.)**

State bonded funding for this facility was recommended by the

Higher Education Coordinating Board, it scored highest among all projects for the higher education growth category, and it was contained in the 2009-2011 capital construction budgets proposed by Gov. Christine Gregoire and Senate leadership. It was not included in the proposed House Capital Budget.



**This project is shovel-ready.** The new four-story engineering teaching and research facility for high demand areas will 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 in the future. 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 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. It is located in the Portland/Vancouver area, making this capital project a top priority for the 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.

For information: Larry Ganders, Assistant to the President (360) 280-6320