

# Yakima Valley College

2023-2025 Legislative Requests

Washington State Community & Technical Colleges



**YAKIMA  
VALLEY  
COLLEGE**



## 2023-25 OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

The COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed higher education in Washington. Our 2023-25 operating budget request would turn the lessons learned during the pandemic into greater opportunities for social and economic mobility for the people, businesses, and communities of Washington.

### **Provide Fully Funded, Competitive Compensation (\$157 million)**

Colleges are losing outstanding employees and job applicants to better paying K-12 schools, private employers, and other colleges and universities. Low pay has been an issue for a long time, but the consequences are more severe as we work to teach and serve students derailed during the pandemic. Faculty and staff are leaving to work in the very fields students hope to learn. A salary increase of 6.5% for each year of the biennium, for a total increase of 13%, would keep talent at our colleges. We are requesting that any and all increases be fully funded so colleges are not forced to cut instructional programs and student services to pay for the funding gap. The 13% increase would be in addition to routine state general wage increases.

### **Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (\$26 million)**

Students of color have been profoundly affected by racial injustice, institutional barriers and the pandemic. Our ongoing, mission-driven work to advance equity, diversity and inclusion was strengthened by the Legislature in 2021 with the passage of Senate Bills 5194 and 5227. Additional investments will support further implementation of college EDI plans, close equity gaps, and improve the employment, earnings and economic mobility of students of color. In doing so, we will help create a more equitable and prosperous Washington.

### **Support Workforce Development Programs (\$77 million)**

Many industries in Washington — such as healthcare, advanced manufacturing, transportation, and aerospace — were struggling to find skilled employees even before the pandemic. COVID-19 made skill gaps worse. However, colleges are having difficulty maintaining workforce programs because of the high cost of small class sizes, specialized equipment, consumable materials, and inflation. In many cases, these programs are the only pipeline into specialized fields. Investments would help colleges sustain workforce programs and update equipment to ensure students learn in classrooms that mirror today's work environments.

### **Expand Learning Technology (\$93 million)**

Remote options hastened by the pandemic are now the new normal. Students, especially working adults, value the flexibility of learning in classrooms, online, or in a mix of the two. Unlike one-time emergency funding during the pandemic, this investment would support lasting progress in the digital evolution of higher education. Colleges would expand hybrid and online options, upgrade audio and visual equipment, equip students with laptops and hotspots, and train faculty and staff to support student success. Investments would also support back-end IT operations and protect students and colleges from cybersecurity threats. Remote options would stretch beyond the classroom to include services such as advising and financial aid.





## 2023-25 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

For the 2023-25 capital budget, our system requests \$1.7 billion in capital investments to maintain and modernize our aging campuses and ensure we provide effective teaching and learning environments for the next generation of students..

### Minor Works

Only 68% of our system's 21 million square feet of facilities is in at least adequate condition. As facilities age, the costs to repair, maintain and preserve existing facilities grows. With minor works funding, colleges undertake small but critical projects that preserve and keep campus spaces viable, relevant and useful. The projects prolong the life of buildings, preventing or delaying more costly renovation and replacement projects in the future.

Under our request, our state's 34 community and technical colleges will receive funding for high-priority facility repairs — such as roofs, walls, windows, mechanical systems and site repairs — and for infrastructure replacement projects. All colleges will also receive funding to reconfigure existing space to meet post-pandemic education needs. For example, the funding will allow colleges to modify classroom space to facilitate hybrid teaching and learning, create active learning and multimedia rooms, expand shared areas, and repurpose open space.

### Major Projects

Our capital budget request also includes funding for 41 major projects, which are ranked based on a rigorous assessment of the need for space, condition of existing facilities, systemwide policy objectives, and estimated costs. The projects will support space for instruction, labs, student services, and vocational programs in high-demand fields like clean energy, automotive technology, advanced manufacturing and allied health.

This request includes \$28.275 million for Yakima Valley College's proposed Prior Kendall Hall project. YVC is expanding enrollment capacity in its Associate Degree in Nursing program and recently launched a new Practical Nursing program, the only PN program in Eastern Washington, to help fill a critical shortage of these health care professionals in Yakima, Kittitas and Klickitat counties. These programs will be housed in the proposed project, which includes spaces that mimic clinical settings.

Fully funding our capital request will benefit students at every college, create valuable public assets for local communities, and put people to work in well-paying jobs that support the local economy in every corner of the state.

## **Contact Information**

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The information provided in this brochure is from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The funding request is to support the 34 institutions in the system.

For additional information: [yvcc.edu/communityrelations](http://yvcc.edu/communityrelations)  
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