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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.

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YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

2024 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budget Requests
Washington State Community & Technical Colleges

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Yakima Valley College

2024 Legislative Requests Washington State Community & Technical Colleges



2024 SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

Washington's 34 community and technical colleges train people across our state for well-paying careers while providing businesses with the talent they need to thrive. Our college system's 2024 supplemental budget request focuses on a critical workforce need: preparing more Washington residents to fill jobs in the fast-growing computer science field while building a diverse, high-tech workforce.

Strengthening the Computer Science Workforce (\$9 million)

Our college system proposes to create at least 15 more Bachelor of Science in Computer Science programs as authorized by the Legislature in 2021 (SB 5401). The demand for high-tech workers in Washington is high. Our state ranks first in the nation for the concentration of tech workers relative to the overall employment base: Nearly one in 10 workers (9.4%) in Washington is employed in the tech industry. High tech careers pay well: The median annual salary for people employed in tech occupations in Washington is \$130,000.

Despite this good news, local employers looking for tech talent continue to encounter a skills shortage. Additionally, access to high-paying jobs is not equitably distributed; Black, Hispanic, and women workers are under-represented in Washington's high tech industry.

Expanding access to computer science bachelor's degrees would help fill skill gaps for Washington employers and provide community and technical college students —

half of whom are students of color — access to these in-demand degrees within their local communities.

Expanding climate solutions curriculum (\$950,000)

Climate change is a health issue, an economic issue, and an equity issue that affects every community. Green jobs in Washington state are growing exponentially and require new skill sets and competencies, along with a thoughtful redesign of existing programs to be more accessible and responsive to changing employer and community needs.

A legislative investment would support the integration of climate education and training into professional technical programs across Washington community and technical colleges, including developing new curricula and workforce training partnerships with Tribes. The training prepares students for well-paying jobs in the green economy, gives them skills to create equitable community-based solutions, and ultimately helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of climate change.

The Legislature provided one-time funding for climate solutions curriculum in the 2022 supplemental operating budget, which engaged approximately 500 faculty in developing hundreds of new curricular modules to teach critical skills and competencies for the green economy and climate solutions. This investment would enable colleges to continue this important work.

2024 SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Investing in College Campuses and Climate Recovery

Our community and technical college system's \$122 million supplemental request targets reducing greenhouse gas emissions, emergency repairs at Bellingham Technical College, and funding two priority capital projects.

Energy-performance standards

According to the Washington State Department of Commerce, buildings are the most rapidly growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state. The building sector is the state's second largest carbon polluter behind transportation, and accounts for 27% of statewide emissions. Investing in building energy efficiency is the most cost-effective way to significantly reduce building sector emissions.

With full funding of this request, our colleges would:

Install energy submeters in individual buildings to ensure compliance with energy performance standards established under the 2019 Clean Buildings Act (HB 1257) and then expanded in 2022 (SB 5722). Fast action is required to meet the first mandatory compliance date of June 1, 2026.

Develop decarbonization plans for campuses with centralized heating and cooling plants. Decarbonization plans for campuses with centralized energy systems serving at least five buildings and more than 100,000 square feet of building space are required under HB 1390, which sets a due date of June 30, 2024 for planning to begin, and June 30, 2025 for them to be submitted to the Department of Commerce for review and approval.

Tune up and optimize inefficient building systems through a "retro-commissioning" grant program. The grant program would be created through this request and administered by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

These investments would equip colleges to meet state energy performance standards for buildings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve operational efficiencies, and avoid significant penalties, thereby preserving funding for instruction and student services.



Priority design and construction projects

Our college system's 2024 budget request also seeks funding for repairs to the Bellingham Technical College Campus Center Building and two major capital projects not funded in the biennial budget: the Center for Vocational and Transitional Studies at Lower Columbia College in Longview, and the Performing Arts Building replacement at Columbia Basin College in Pasco. Funding these requests would serve students while reducing a backlog of capital projects needed across Washington's 34 community and technical colleges.

Among the backlog of future capital projects is 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. In addition, the proposed building will include a career center and IT collaboration space.

