

Major Capital Projects – 2014



Pavilion and Student Recreation Center

Construction began June 23 on the renovation and expansion of the Pavilion. The student-approved and funded project will include more than 24,000 square feet of new construction and 6,700 square feet of renovated space. In addition, there will be significant site improvements on the east and south sides of the building that will create a stronger pedestrian connection to the project from the Syre Student Center and the south parking area. General contractor is Tiger Construction of Everson.

Completion: August 2015

Baker Hall, Computer Information Systems (CIS) Program Expansion

The CIS expansion began June 23 and consists of a renovation and remodel of approximately 6,000 square feet of the south wing of Baker Hall. The most significant improvements include three new CIS labs, a lab development room, two lecture rooms, a networking room, and additional equipment storage for the program. Whatcom's CIS program is nationally recognized for its academic excellence. WCC is home of CyberWatch West, one of four NSF-funded regional centers for cybersecurity education. General contractor for the remodel is Colacurcio Brothers Construction Co. of Blaine.

Completion: September 2014

Laidlaw 208 Remodel

This project will include a remodel of Laidlaw Center 208 to create an office space for Student Services, Judicial Affairs, and support staff. This remodel will include two office spaces, a small meeting room, and an open office/reception area. Faber Construction of Lynden is the general contractor on this project as well as the remodel of Cascade 129 (described below).

Completion: Late August 2014

Cascade 129 and Syre 202 Remodel

This project will include a remodel of Cascade 129 to create two new offices and a new workspace for the Horizon (student newspaper). With the relocation of the Horizon from the Syre Student Center to Cascade, this project will facilitate the expansion of the International Programs office in Syre. No physical changes will be made to the Syre space, but partitions and furniture will be added to create four new work spaces and a meeting space.

Completion: September 2014

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Laidlaw 218 Conversion to General Classroom

The remodel will convert the Medical Assisting Lab back to a general classroom to be used beginning fall 2014. Medical Assisting labs and classes relocated to WCC's Health Professions Education Center when the state-of-the-art facility opened fall 2013.

Completion: Late July 2014

Laidlaw Center 118 Remodel

This area will receive upgrades to furniture, paint, carpeting, and technology to facilitate advising of students using AgileGrad, degree planning software to support student success.

Completion: August 2014

Syre 217 Reconfiguration

The Multicultural Academic Support Center will move from Cascade 117 to Syre Student Center 217 (Mt. Baker Reading Room). No physical changes will be made to the space, but furniture will be added to create an intake and student support desk, student collaboration space, and study areas. There will be technology upgrades to allow for lap-top check out and student use of basic audio/video equipment.

Completion: September 2014

Ongoing Projects – Status Report

Institutional Master Plan (IMP)

Whatcom's IMP will expand campus buildings to address increased enrollments and demand for new types of learning facilities. Whatcom recently completed a pre-application meeting with the City of Bellingham Planning Department where we reviewed the draft IMP and associated stormwater and traffic study information. A neighborhood meeting was held June 10 to share the highlights of our IMP and to allow an opportunity for public comment. Whatcom has several required steps to complete before the IMP goes in front of Bellingham City Council for approval. We anticipate this will happen in December 2014 or January 2015.



Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons

The Learning Commons is a key element of the College's Institutional Master Plan (IMP). When it opens in 2017, the Learning Commons will house academic support services and resources such as the Library, math and writing centers, media and tutoring services, and quiet and shared study spaces. It will be Whatcom's first state-funded building since Kulshan Hall opened in 2004. The Learning Commons project is in the schematic design phase. The schematic design phase is a very collaborative effort which also considers possible site improvements such as a pedestrian overpass to span Kellogg Road. Construction for the Learning Commons is scheduled to begin in July 2015. The building is named in honor of long-time College advocates and community leaders Phyllis and Charles Self.