

CLARK COUNTY CONNECTIONS

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\$27 million expected soon for college's tech building

Clark College's east county campus could head for the planning finish line as lawmakers early next year consider allocating \$27 million for the green, 70,000-square-foot building earmarked for Columbia Tech Center.

The Legislature has spent nearly \$3 million for planning and design work, so Bob Knight, the college's interim president, said he is confident construction dollars will follow.

"We don't see that there's going to be a problem," Knight said.

If the money is approved, construction could start in July, just after the 2007-09 biennium begins, he said.

The building, which could take two years to put up, is planned for the 18600 block of Southeast Mill Plain Boulevard.

The four-story building would include three floors of classrooms and laboratories for general transfer classes and several work force and training programs.

Clark College at Columbia Tech Center would include 23 classrooms, 12 computer and science labs, a food service area, a fitness room and a business development center.

The building would accommodate 800 to 1,000 students.

A parking lot for 700 vehicles is planned.

The fourth floor would house the building's mechanical systems.

Similar to the Clark Center on the Washington State University Vancouver campus, the Tech Center building is designed with plenty of windows for natural light and energy-efficient measures that would save money in the long run, Knight said.