

CLARK COLLEGE Legislative Agenda

2008



Clark College has aligned its legislative agenda with the themes in the 2008 budget request of the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

OPERATING BUDGET

1. Campus Security

Funding is essential in order to provide equipment and planning for campus safety. Funds will be used for critical communication systems to reach students, faculty and staff in times of emergency, and to train faculty and staff to effectively respond in a crisis. The College is already incurring costs of updating locks and adoption of new notification systems. Through this request, Clark College would receive a portion of the funding distributed across the community and technical college system to further implement communication systems and training.

State-wide Impact

SBCTC is requesting \$8.5 million to address issues of campus security state-wide.

2. Support for Running Start Students (\$447,000 to Clark College)

The popularity of the Running Start program with high school students has resulted in a significant demand for additional college offerings. As the Running Start program has expanded, the funding gap between what the colleges receive from school districts and the cost of providing instruction and student services has widened. This year alone, the amount colleges receive will cover less than 60% of their Running Start operating costs. Requested funding would be the first step in reducing that gap. Based on last year's enrollments, Clark College would receive an additional \$447,000 to help close the gap between funding currently received and the cost of providing instruction and services

State-wide Impact

SBCTC is requesting a total of \$7 million to begin to close the \$35 million annual state-wide deficit in funding of the Running Start program.

3. Equipment & Online Resources

Equipment acquisition and replacement and improved online library resources remain a top priority in high demand workforce programs. Additional funding would allow students to become future employees who are prepared to work in today's job environment with minimal learning curves and/or transfer to four year colleges and universities. Clark College would receive a much needed portion of the equipment and online resources allocation distributed across the community and technical college system.

State-wide Impact

SBCTC is requesting \$9 million to fund new equipment and online resources at community and technical colleges state-wide.

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4. Worker Retraining Program (\$223,317 to Clark College)

Since 1997, funding for 6,200 Worker Retraining FTES has remained stagnant, without an adjustment for inflation or tuition increases. In that same time period, tuition has increased 84% and inflation 20%. The program needs more support for student financial aid and college instruction to make it whole. Based on last year's enrollments, Clark College would receive approximately \$223,317 in additional instructional and financial aid support.

State-wide Impact

SBCTC is requesting \$5.7 million to provide additional instructional and financial aid support for the worker retraining program state-wide.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Re-authorize the Gardner-Evans-Locke Higher Education Bonds

The \$740 million in additional bond authority originally granted in the 2003 Washington Future Act (Gardner-Evans) has been fully committed. Without re-authorization of the Washington Future Act, capital projects already authorized for Clark College could be at risk. Projects in the pipeline include completion of the \$27 million Clark College at Columbia Tech Center in 2009 and the \$33 million Health and Advanced Technology Building scheduled for completion in 2013.

State-wide Impact

SBCTC is requesting re-authorization of the Washington Future Act beginning in the 2009-11 biennium to dedicate an additional \$1.0 billion over the next six years for higher education capital preservation, renovation and capacity growth to address 2-year and 4-year institutional buildings needs across the state.