365 - Washington State University
Capital Project Request

2021-23 Biennium

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Project Number: **40000273**
Project Title: **STEM Teaching and Replacement Building - VCEA**

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2022
Project Class: Program
Agency Priority: 8

Project Summary

Washington State University (WSU) requests $500,000 in the 2021-23 capital budget for the predesign of a new engineering building on the Pullman campus. This funding request will support the study and programming necessary to demolish Dana Hall and replace it with a new state-of-the-art STEM Teaching and Research Building.

Project Description

Identify the problem or opportunity addressed. Why is the request a priority? This narrative should identify unserved/underserved people or communities, operating budget savings, public safety improvements or other backup necessary to understand the need for the request. For preservation projects, it is helpful to include information about the current condition of the facility or system.

Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture (VCEA) has been, and continues, to place considerable focus on growing Washington's pipeline of work-ready STEM related fields, including engineering and computer science graduates. The college has increased enrollments over 80% since 2012, from 3,271 students enrolled to 5,949 in 2019, however, the facilities have struggled to accommodate this level of growth.

Replacing Dana Hall is the first step in the revitalization plan for the Engineering District on the Pullman campus. Built in 1949, Dana Hall sits at the cornerstone of the VCEA Engineering District but lacks the modern facilities that are essential in providing the educational experience expected by today's students. Dana Hall, has a Comparable Framework score of 5 (Needs Improvement – Marginal Functionality) due to failing infrastructure, obsolete building systems, and inefficient structural layout restricting modifications for flexible configurations.

In addition to Dana Hall, there are eight other buildings on the Pullman campus that currently house VCEA programs, six of which have a Comparable Framework Study score of 5 (Needs Improvement – Marginal Functionality) and have never received a major renovation since originally constructed.

Significant capital investment in VCEA is required to fulfill the land grant mission and contribute to the state's STEM employment pipeline, while supporting the university's Development Plan to reduce the preventative maintenance backlog and increase space utilization.

What will the request produce or construct (i.e., predesign or design of a building, construction of additional space, etc.)? When will the project start and be completed? Identify whether the project can be phased, and if so, which phase is included in the request. Please provide detailed cost backup.

This request will produce a Predesign document to identify the program components to incorporate into a new facility that will provide the most benefit to the students and faculty in VCEA, as well as boost the educational opportunities for Washingtonians. The Predesign phase will start immediately after funding is allocated (summer 2021) and expected to be complete within one year. The associated funding requests for design and construction will be delayed to 2025-27 and 27-29, respectively, allowing for necessary renovation of the Thermal Fluids Building and utility infrastructure upgrades serving the engineering precinct. These two 2023-25 standalone projects will lay the groundwork needed to successfully vacate, demolish and replace Dana Hall with a new state-of-the-art STEM facility.

The Predesign phase would be completed in one biennium with requests for design and construction funding to follow in future biennia. Reference the CBS003 and C100 for detailed cost estimate.

How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified in question 1? What would be the result of not taking action?

High quality, modern facilities are vital for maintaining and expanding STEM research initiatives, and critical for effective classroom instruction. Quality facilities are also a high priority for attracting and retaining the best faculty and undergraduate and graduate student scholars who contribute to the university's Drive to 25 initiative to improve service to the state. Replacing Dana Hall with a modern, flexible, energy efficient building would not only deliver educational and research opportunities and improve space utilization, but will reduce the university's deferred maintenance backlog by over $10,000,000 and allow the high operational costs to be reallocated to other critical buildings on campus.

The timing for taking action is critical for the college and the university system. Dana Hall is over 70 years old and as the preventative maintenance backlog continues to increase, the students and faculty suffer the most.

As building infrastructures continue to degrade, there are increased service failures and maintenance outages. Outages are a