

Dear Legislative Representative,

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you and your representatives during this past legislative session to discuss priorities for Shoreline Community College (SCC), as well as the state's community and technical college system, and the diverse communities we serve. We look forward to having you visit our campus this summer. You have likely seen the House's plan to remove Shoreline's STE(A)M Education Center proposal from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' (SBCTCs') 2023-25 Capital Appropriation request list. We very much understand that this is an extremely tight budget cycle and that the state has prioritized many worthy projects. However, we have significant concerns about the impact a delay in building our STE(A)M Education Center project would have on the citizens of Washington state.

This new facility will house SCC's new nursing facility. Taking into consideration the acute nursing shortage in Washington state and across the nation, coupled with our state's emphasis on increasing the number of new nurses, we intentionally designed this space to accommodate realistic and creative simulation scenarios to enable students to progress through the program more efficiently. This effort will position Shoreline Community College to be one of the major contributors in support of Senate Bill 5582 (Reducing barriers and educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in Washington).

In addition, this building will create new space for the music and mathematics departments. While other Washington community and technical colleges have recently cut music and music technology disciplines, Shoreline's strong, vibrant programs are growing steadily and serve students from a wide geographic area across Western Washington. Additionally, a solid foundation in mathematics is often cited as the number one predictor of college success regardless of one's major. Having a new space for mathematics pedagogy will help set the stage for our students' transfer opportunities and future achievements.

Shoreline will also soon complete the Health Sciences & Advanced Manufacturing College Complex (HSAMCC) which will provide major opportunities for career placement and transfer through additional STEM/Health-based programming in advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, chemistry, medical lab technology, phlebotomy, and more. The Seattle region has become one of the leading health care clusters in the nation, with considerable concentration in health care delivery, biomedical research and applications, and training for medical staff. With an aging workforce, an increased need for home health care, and the reality of a nation still reeling from pandemic related burdens, it is more important than ever to increase training capacity. With these two new buildings, we are creating an innovative STE(A)M / Health Science presence on campus which will be a hub for the city of Shoreline, the greater northern Seattle region, and Washington state.

Finally, the STE(A)M Education Center project has already been compromised by escalating costs. We have been presented with a 1.7-million-dollar request to reduce costs and size before the project has even broken ground. The College has avoided reducing instructional space thus far, but if we wait another two years for this project to begin, it will be nearly impossible to avoid the issue of reducing space, thus impacting instructional programs and significantly altering the overall vision of these projects for the community. In addition, the current buildings that will be replaced by this new project were the lowest-rated spaces of all buildings in the community and technical colleges system when the project was originally submitted.

Please find enclosed several signatures from our Board and Shoreline community representatives. We would ask you to advocate for the STE(A)M Education Center project to be reprioritized on the final project list. Thank you for your continued support of Shoreline and our students.

Respectfully,
Jack S. Kahn Ph.D.
President
Shoreline Community College

& all Community Members