

More background on OCCC Workforce Education Resiliency Center (can use to tailor your letter), from our application to the state.

Proposal: An approximately 30,000 square foot, 2-story building to house workforce development training & education programs, located at the main OCCC campus in Newport, Lincoln County, Oregon. Seeking \$8 million in

### **What is the nature of the problem to which this project is the solution?**

While the current Career Technical/Workforce Development (CTE/WFD) offerings of OCCC are high in quality, they are quite limited in quantity and breadth. Meanwhile, input from local employers, regional employment data, and post-secondary (some education after high school) completion data all indicate a very high need for additional CTE/WFD programs to be offered by the college.

Additionally, the 25-acre site of the main campus has been designated by Lincoln County Emergency Management as a major safe assembly area in the event of earthquake and tsunami (which experts describe as a case of when, not if.) The College will be a major and potentially long-term assembly area for potentially thousands of individuals impacted by an event.

### **What is the program purpose to be served?**

The primary program purpose of this project is to provide facilities for credit programming in the following areas:

- Emergency Preparation & Management; Maritime Technicians; Applied Technology (Trades); P-12 Teacher Education.
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A secondary function of the building will be as a facility designed with South Beach disaster recovery in mind: advanced earthquake resistant, stand-alone power and backup, water sanitation equipment, flexible spaces that could provide shelter and food prep, and staff and equipment in the building prepared to provide disaster mitigation.

The third purpose to be served by the building are “secondary” educational use, to include: Workforce training for non-college credit seeking professionals, Community Education for emergency planning, Continuing education for emergency response professionals

#### **Benefits to our community**

- Support families, employers, and economy with education for living wage jobs.
- Increased student readiness to enter the workforce.
- Potential for Regional Training facility.
- Improve student achievement and college and career readiness.

- Increased postsecondary enrollment.

**Why is this project required by the Community College at this time?**

1. The strategic plan of the College (completed in 2015) calls for a potential doubling in enrollment over the next decade, with much of the growth driven by the addition of CTE/WFD programming. Current facilities were not designed with this expansion in mind. Meanwhile, local employers are clamoring for the College to act quickly to address workforce needs, and to develop an educated workforce ready to stay and work in Lincoln County.
2. The emergency planning and mitigation needs of Lincoln County are immediate.