

CONSENT ITEM (RESOLUTION 25-04-12)

April 10, 2025

Tab 4

Lower Columbia College–local capital expenditure authority for construction of Softball Batting Facility

Brief Description

Lower Columbia College seeks approval to spend up to an additional \$700,000 in Department of Commerce funds to construct a new Softball Batting Facility. This facility will provide flexible space for softball batting and pitching practice, addressing the lack of practice facilities on campus for the Red Devil Softball team. The project aligns with the college's commitment to equitable support for women's sports and enhancing athletic facilities..

How does this item link to the State Board's Strategic Plan?

This project supports student success by providing modern and relevant facilities and increasing access and retention to populations who can benefit most from college.

Background information and analysis

Lower Columbia College has identified the need for a dedicated practice facility for its Red Devil Softball team. The new building will offer flexible space for batting and pitching practice, ensuring the team has adequate facilities. The Lower Columbia College Foundation is actively raising funds through its "Opportunity Can't Wait" capital campaign to support this project. This facility will also support the women's soccer team by providing space for Futsal practice.

Lower Columbia College's Board of Trustees approved this project and local capital expenditure on October 18, 2023. The college received State Board approval to use local funds up to \$700,000 on October 31, 2023. Lower Columbia has since received an additional allocation of \$700,000 in the fiscal year 2025 supplemental budget from the Department of Commerce to expand the project and brings the total cost and available funding to \$1,400,000.

Recommendation/preferred result

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 25-04-12 granting Lower Columbia College the authority to spend up to an additional \$700,000 in Department of Commerce funds for a combined local and Department of Commerce funding approval up to \$1,400,000 for the construction of the Softball Batting Facility.

Policy Manual Change Yes ☐ No ☒

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES

RESOLUTION 25-04-12

A resolution relating to the construction of a Softball Batting Facility at Lower Columbia College, authorizing an increase for the college to spend up to \$700,000 in Department of Commerce funds to construct the facility.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 28B.50 and State Board policy, 6.20 the State Board any expenditure of capital funds, any expenditure for a capital purpose, and each capital improvement project affecting educational facilities, must be approved by the State Board; and

WHEREAS, Lower Columbia College's has identified the need for a dedicated practice facility for its Red Devil Softball team to address the lack of practice facilities on campus; and

WHEREAS, this facility will provide equitable support for women's softball and ensure that they have adequate practice facilities, and will also support the women's soccer team by providing space for Futsal practice; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Columbia College Foundation is actively raising funds through its "Opportunity Can't Wait" capital campaign to support this project; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is \$1,400,000, with a Department of Commerce grant funding of \$700,000 and local college funding approval of \$700,000; and

WHEREAS, Lower Columbia College's Board of Trustees approved this local capital expenditure up to \$1,400,000 request on 10/18/2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes Lower Columbia College to spend up an additional \$700,000 provided through a Department of Commerce grant to construct a Softball Batting Facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges authorizes the Executive Director to make adjustments to this action, including any necessary changes to the State Board's Policy Manual, as necessary, for actions taken by the Governor, Legislature, data corrections, externally imposed restrictions or guidelines, uniform accounting and reporting requirements, and unanticipated changes in state or federal law.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on (04/10/2025)

Attest



Chris Bailey, interim secretary



Martin Valadez, chair