



CAMPAIGN FEASIBILITY STUDY • SPRING 2022

Rebuilding for the Future

Lower Columbia College Foundation is evaluating the feasibility of a capital campaign to fund new equipment that will elevate the College's vocational programs into a world-class skills center and athletic facilities and scholarships. The \$7M campaign will advance student opportunity, develop our region's future workforce, and create facilities that benefit our entire community.

The College

Established in 1934, Lower Columbia College was founded during the Great Depression by community leaders seeking a better future for high school graduates. Today, the College is a comprehensive community and technical college offering 70+ programs and serving over 4,000 students each year. Recognized for its excellence in nursing, workforce training, academic preparation, and athletics, the College serves as the educational center for the entire Lower Columbia region.

***"Our vision is to be a powerful force for improving
the quality of life in our community."***

- LCC President Christopher Bailey

Rebuilding Community

As we recover after COVID-19, Lower Columbia College is positioned to deliver a new level of service to the community:

- **Helping students build their job readiness** skills to meet the job needs of our region and beyond.
- **Attracting thousands of people** to our region and 38-acre campus each year. When we modernize facilities on our historic campus, those dollars stay in our community.
- **Meeting industry demand** for skilled workers to fill the growing number of trade, STEM, and health care jobs that drive our economy.
- **Partnering with local school districts** to address the fact that nearly 50% of area students do not pursue a college degree or credential.

Community colleges represent the future. A Business Roundtable survey found that 94% of CEOs reported problematic skill gaps for their companies. Community colleges ensure that future workers have outstanding technical, communications, and problem solving skills.



Rendering of the new vocational facility, slated for construction in 2023 with planned opening Fall 2025.

Credit: McGranahan Architects



Opening Doors through Innovative Vocational Offerings - \$2.5M

LCC will create a new 47,000 square foot facility to replace three vocational and science buildings, designed and constructed more than 60 years ago. The new building will:

- bring together the College's welding, machining, and manufacturing programs
- provide modernized facilities for information technology and computer science programs
- house preparation for apprenticeship and transitional programs

By design, students coming to campus for GED and adult basic education programs will learn adjacent to our trade programs, exposing them to career pathways that could be the next step in their educational journeys.

LCC is working with the Washington State legislature to secure capital funding for the new building. LCC has received \$3.85M for Predesign/Design, and has requested \$35M for construction in the 2023-2025 biennium.

To complete the facility, the College is seeking \$2.5M in community support to bring in new, state-of-the-art equipment. Cutting-edge tools and equipment will elevate the new vocational center into a world-class skills center serving local high schools, industry, and unions. Students will go directly from college to career, filling the high-demand and living wage jobs of today and tomorrow.

Planning and Persistence: The College's strategic plan calls for the replacement of multiple aging buildings. Since 2008, with public funding and private philanthropy, we have accomplished a number of projects:

1. The **Rose Center for the Arts** (2008)—The center's performance and exhibit spaces have been designed to showcase arts and culture, and host community events.
2. The **Stoller Athletic Center** (2014)—Our remodeled facility is available for use throughout the community, and home to Red Devil basketball and volleyball teams.
3. The **Health & Science Building** (2014)—LCC's most recent capital campaign brought together all healthcare and science programs in this new building.

Supporting our Student Athletes - \$2M

Red Devil athletics is a point of pride for the College and has long enjoyed strong community support. LCC's athletic programs bring top talent to our community, including many of the College's most well-known alumni. Even through economic downturns, athletics remains a stable part of the College's enrollment and revenue.

Athletics attract diverse and outstanding students to our campus, bringing a variety of perspectives and experiences that enhance the learning environment. Last year, our 120 Red Devil student athletes achieved an overall GPA of 3.34, with 34 receiving All-Northwest Athletic Conference academic awards.

"Between our coaching staff, culture of achievement, and supportive college environment, we have found a winning formula in helping student-athletes succeed in the classroom and on the field. It goes beyond athletics; we are helping to end a cycle of poverty for many of these exceptional students."

- Kirc Roland, LCC Athletic Director

Student success depends on more than covering tuition; Foundation support helps student-athletes with housing, equipment, and travel expenses. We strive to grow our endowment to \$2M so we can fully cover these annual costs (for 120 student-athletes), allowing booster support to augment additional athletic program funding needs.

Since losing the ability to use state funding to support athletics in 2011, the Foundation must secure nearly \$100,000 annually for scholarships and program support. Community support is also required for maintaining facilities.

Strengthening the College-Community Connection - \$2.5M

The College shares many outdoor athletic facilities with area clubs and schools, and as a result these facilities are heavily used and long overdue for upgrades and maintenance.

- LCC boasts the premier junior college men's baseball program in the Northwest. Our **historic Story Field** at the heart of our campus is beloved by the thousands of athletes and visitors who use it every year. Now 60 years old, we must address limitations by improving grandstands, lighting, and the entrance.
- The LCC **women's soccer team** shares use of Northlake Field with Longview School District. High use and wet weather result in a field that fails to meet the Red Devils' and community's needs. The College will work with the school district to invest in improvements, such as synthetic turf, lighting, and covered benches for the players.
- Our **women's softball team** shares a field with multiple clubs for both its practices and games, resulting in scheduling stress and unpredictable field conditions. We seek to work with the City of Kelso to improve the shared softball field. Furthermore, investing in an on-campus softball batting cage will provide the team greater flexibility for practice.



Renderings of Story Field stadium and grandstand improvements. Credit: Craig Collins



Rebuilding for Our Future Campaign Budget

Vocational Equipment Fund: <i>Invest in a world-class skills center</i>		\$2.5M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Welding, Machining, and Manufacturing equipment ■ Information Technology & Computer Science equipment ■ Reserve funds for ongoing repair and replacement over 10 years 		
Athletic Facilities Fund: <i>Invest in outdoor athletic facilities</i>		\$2.5M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Renovate Story Field: Grandstands, lighting, entrance, and reserve funds for maintenance ■ Improve soccer field: Synthetic turf, lighting, press box, storage, snack shack, and covered benches ■ Improve softball field and facilities; Add new softball cage on campus 		
Athletic Endowment: <i>Support exceptional student-athletes</i>		\$2M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fully cover annual student athlete scholarships and support 		\$1M Secured!
		TOTAL \$7M

Total Planned Project Revenue

Washington State Capital Funding	\$38.8M
Private Philanthropy-Vocational Equipment	\$ 2.5M
Private Philanthropy-Athletics	\$ 4.5M
Partnering Organizations	\$ 1.0M

TOTAL \$46.8M

[Private philanthropy represents 15% of total project funding.]

Rebuilding on Our Strengths

Our region's character has been forged by the strength of generations. Local families and businesses had the foresight to make critical investments in industry, and have been true stewards of our community's health and prosperity. Lower Columbia College stands as a testament to that foresight.

We've reached another pivotal moment. Our quality of life—and ability to attract new employees, families, and businesses—depends on rebuilding community assets that will serve us well into the future.

Through this campaign, Lower Columbia College will emerge as both a community anchor and an inviting beacon for those seeking new opportunities. We will ensure students become the best-prepared applicants for hire, learn in state-of-the-art amenities, and discover a welcoming community that encourages them to stay—to live, work, and play.

Thank you for your participation in our feasibility study. For further information, please contact:



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LCC at a Glance*

Enrollment

4,302 Total students
177 Worker Retraining
99 Veterans**
508 Running Start
3,241 Online

Student Intent

39% Transfer students
34% Workforce students
15% Basic Skills students
12% Other students

Demographics

70% Female
26% Students of color
28 Average age
48% Full-time

NWAC Varsity Sports

Men & Women's Basketball
Men's Baseball, Women's
Softball, Volleyball, & Soccer

Facilities

38.75 Acre campus
26 Buildings

Operating Budget for 2020-21

\$25.3 Million

*2020-21 data, unless noted

**Students receiving Veteran benefits



28 JANUARY 2022