

Grand Rapids Community College

State of Michigan Capital Outlay Project Request - FY 2019

Applied Technology Center – Renovation and Addition

Building Square Footage = 187,822 SF stand-alone facility

Project Square Footage: 40,000 SF (Renovation 20,000 SF/Addition 20,000 SF)

Projected Project Cost: \$12,734,500

1. Project Purpose:

West Michigan is home to one of the nation's largest and most diverse manufacturing sectors, which is experiencing a resurgence and continues to lead job growth across the state. This growth has impacted the classrooms, equipment, and laboratory usage of our facilities. With employer support, GRCC continues to be asked to create additional trainings and programs in this discipline to meet the needs of their projected workforce. New manufacturing offerings are tied to national credentials, such as NIMS (National Institute for Metal Working), AWS (American Welding Society), MSSC (Manufacturing Skills Standards) and PMMI (Institute for Packaging and Processing Technologies).

Since 2009, the region's manufacturing sector has added 19,300 jobs and grown by 17.2%, matching industry gains statewide. The automation of manufacturing equipment and processing continues to evolve the work, requiring technicians to have a higher level of skills. This segment of the West Michigan economy continues to produce a wide variety of high-demand, high-wage career opportunities. Moreover, the majority of these secure, technician-level jobs are considered mid- to high-skill, but do not require a 4-year degree.

The facility that supports programs in these areas is the Wisner Bottrall Applied Technology Center (ATC). Within this facility, Ferris State University (FSU) is a one-third partner, and FSU and GRCC recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of this partnership. Additionally, the Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) operates their Machine Tool Program from this facility. Although some spaces have been renovated to support new program areas, the Manufacturing and Information Technology spaces have not changed. The addition of a new lab and upgraded equipment in current labs will add much needed capacity for the tooling and manufacturing technology program, and will thereby increase the number of students earning the credentials necessary for a manufacturing career. This need is especially critical given the college's current lab capacity is maximized.

The growth of IT is occurring in almost every priority sector of the State. According to Michigan's Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, and CEO led Talent 2025's West Michigan Talent Demand Report (2016), West Michigan occupational employment is expected to grow by 12%, expanding by 83,945 jobs, with the "fastest job growth in Michigan" forecasted over the next six years. The demand for different types of computer based learning environments and labs to support new initiatives such as CISCO certifications, data center simulation, cyber security, networking, and software development are exceeding supply.

While the talent demand associated with ATC-housed programs continue to grow, the facility has not kept pace with the growth. The current configuration of the spaces within the facility have become inefficient and restrictive for the types of active learning that needs to occur in classroom and labs.

2. Scope of the Project:

As previously stated, the Applied Technology Center is 25 years old. The existing configuration no longer supports the type of classroom/laboratory learning necessary. The proposed project includes renovation of approximately 20,000 square feet within the existing facility, and an expansion of approximately 20,000 square feet. The combination of renovation and expansion will allow the college to leverage existing labs and infrastructure to reconfigure existing spaces to meet program needs and expand where necessary to support new program development. The college recently completed infrastructure improvements in the Applied Technology Center which brought all life-safety issues to code, replaced the atrium skylight roof and replaced the elevators. This project is solely focused on instructional spaces.

3. Program focus of occupants

The program focus of occupants are students and faculty.

4. How does the project support Michigan's talent enhancement, job creation and economic growth initiatives on a local, regional and/or statewide basis?

The GRCC capital outlay request is in direct alignment with Prosperity Region 4's Michigan Works! workforce plan and the State's sectoral strategy. The work proposed in the Applied Technology Center Building focuses on two major West Michigan sectors, Manufacturing and Information Technology (IT). The additions/changes proposed will enhance our ability to provide education to service the needs of current employers in this sector, such as Autocam, NN Manufacturing, Herman Miller, Kellogg Snacks, the Associated Builders and Contractors (400 members), Spectrum Health, and OST, along with new Michigan companies like Switch (SuperNap) and TechDefenders. As previously stated, the growth in IT is occurring in almost every priority sector of the State. Manufacturing employment leads in the region with 21.5% of the jobs in manufacturing (146,966), and 3.9% in IT. Occupations listed below also have application within several other important sectors such as construction and many are used in the healthcare sectors. According to Talent 2025's Occupational Outlook for our region West Michigan is expected to grow by 12%, expanding by 83,945 jobs. One in five new jobs in Michigan will be in West Michigan.

West Michigan - Prosperity Zone 4 (13 counties)

SOC	Description	2016 Jobs	2014-16 Change	2014-16 % Change	Annual Openings	Median Hourly Earnings
17-3023	Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technicians	1,309	161	14%	113	\$29.76
17-3024	Electro-Mechanical Technicians	185	17	10%	14	\$27.25
17-3027	Mechanical Engineering Technicians	475	41	9%	33	\$22.88
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	3,134	311	11%	238	\$21.11
11-3051	Industrial Production Managers	2,119	135	7%	132	\$44.09

51-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	5,896	371	4%	294	\$26.26
51-4011	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	2,784	309	12%	241	\$16.84
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers and Weighers	6,712	504	8%	430	\$14.92
51-9399	Production Workers, All Other	1,822	120	9%	120	\$11.11
15-1132	Software Developers, Applications	1,901	172	10%	114	\$34.84
15-1151	Computer User Support Specialists	2,999	189	7%	135	\$22.42
15-1199	Computer Occupations, All Other	659	38	6%	29	\$24.10
47-2111	Electricians	3,228	233	8%	170	\$23.56
47-3013	Helpers Electricians	203	12	6%	10	\$11.24
49-9021	Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanics and Installers	1,522	159	12%	104	\$21.42

As of 9/28/2016 EMSI

Talent 2025 Talent Demand Report, September 2016

5. How does the project enhance the core academic and/or research mission of the institution?

Grand Rapids Community College was founded in 1914, following a resolution by the University of Michigan faculty that encouraged the establishment of junior colleges in Michigan. Under the 1966 Community College Act, Michigan included postsecondary vocational-technical education in the community college program. Consequently, GRCC now offers comprehensive educational services for workforce degree students, transfer students and job training students.

Additionally, GRCC has a history of working closely with area employers to meet workforce needs and address workforce talent requirements. So much so, that our strategic ends include a Workforce Pathway. This pathway will provide prepared students for the workforce in our community and in the world. As a means to support this end, we have provided a strategy to assure that resources and infrastructure are effectively organized and consistently aligned to provide students and other stakeholders an efficient, successful, user-centered system to promote the attainment of skills necessary to enter the workforce. As a result of GRCC's commitment to provide employers with a talented workforce, this project will help provide students with additional options for skill development credentialing and transferability.

6. Is the requested project focused on a single, stand-alone facility? If no, please explain.

Yes, the Applied Technology Center is a stand-alone facility on the downtown campus of Grand Rapids Community College.

7. How does the project support investment in or adaptive re-purposing of existing facilities and infrastructure?

The Applied Technology Center houses a variety of workforce development programs and specialty learning labs to support computer information systems, machine tool, plastics, hydraulics, CAD/CAM, HVAC and others. The infrastructure to support this high tech and heavy equipment already exists in this facility. Investing in expansion of this facility leverages the existing labs and infrastructure to support program and enrollment expansion.

8. Does the project address or mitigate any current health/safety deficiencies relative to existing facilities? If yes, please explain.

As stated, the machine tool lab is currently utilized by GRCC, FSU and KISD. These programs are often sharing classroom space and lab space simultaneously. Expanding lab space will create a much safer learning environment for all students.

9. How does the institution measure utilization of its existing facilities, and how does it compare relative to established benchmarks for educational facilities? How does the project help to improve the utilization of existing space and infrastructure, or conversely how does current utilization support the need for additional space and infrastructure?

The labs and classrooms within the Applied Technology Center are utilized Monday through Saturday. Computer labs in the facility are used not only for Information Technology course work, but also support Fast Track developmental course work, Information Literacy training, new student orientation and academic support programming. Course offerings and enrollment in workforce development programs are at capacity in the evening, which is a high demand timeframe for working adults. GRCC and FSU meet each term to determine how best to allocate the limited lab and classroom resources, understanding the need for proximity between classrooms and labs. Also, as noted earlier, the KISD program meets within the facility and has dedicated classroom use Monday through Friday during the K-12 academic year. The renovation and expansion will allow the college to reconfigure space for improved utilization and for effective learning environments.

10. How does the institution intend to integrate sustainable design principles to enhance the efficiency and operations of the facility?

GRCC incorporates LEED standards in all building and renovation projects. In addition to employing LEED standards, we incorporate energy efficient systems and automated controls, lighting sensors and recyclable materials are used in furnishings, carpeting, etc.

11. Are match resources currently available for the project? If yes, what is the source of them match resources? If no, identify the intended source and the estimated timeline for securing said resources.

Existing plant fund resources will be allocated to meet match requirements. All planning and construction resources will be on hand prior to the desired start of the project in fall of 2019.

12. If authorized for construction, the state typically provides a maximum of 75% of the total cost for university projects and 50% of the total cost for community college projects. Does the institution intend to commit additional resources that would reduce the state share from the amount indicated? If so, by what amount? GRCC is requesting 50% support, as no additional resources are available to assist with this project.

13. Will the completed project increase operating costs to the institution? If yes, please provide an estimated cost (annually, and over a five-year period) and indicate whether the institution has identified available funds to support the additional cost.

No significant additional operating costs have been identified.

14. What impact, if any, will the project have on tuition costs?

The increase in operational cost is not projected to have any impact on GRCC tuition costs.

15. If the project is not authorized, what are the impacts to the institution and its students?

If this project is not funded, GRCC will be significantly restricted in our ability to respond to the identified needs of employers in the region. Due to space constraints, program expansion will be compromised and enrollment opportunities for students in these high demand areas will be limited.

16. What alternatives to this project were considered? Why is the request project preferable to those alternatives?

There are no viable alternatives for this project to support these occupational areas. The college did investigate expanding the Tassell M-TEC, however, as that facility was built on a brownfield zone, there would be significant and costly requirements for expansion of that facility. Within the Applied Technology Center, laboratories already exist to support existing programming. Leveraging that infrastructure (network, heavy equipment requirements, specialty equipment and labs) is preferable to relocating labs and classrooms.