



OKANOGAN COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

Chris Branch
Commissioner District 1
Andy Hover
Commissioner District 2
Jim DeTro
Commissioner District 3
Laleña Johns
Clerk of the Board

April 6, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to demonstrate our support for a Health Science Center building for Wenatchee Valley College's Omak campus. This is a significant need in our community and we hope that you will nominate this project for Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2022.

Wenatchee Valley College is a State of Washington supported two-year community college that was established in the City of Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington in 1939. WVC went on to establish a branch campus in the City of Omak, Okanogan County in the mid 1970's. The Wenatchee Valley College district is the size of Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined, covering more than 10,000 square miles of Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties. The Wenatchee campus is located near the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains, midway between Seattle and Spokane. The WVC at Omak campus is located near the Canadian border in Omak, about 100 miles north of Wenatchee and draws students from neighboring communities on the Colville Indian Reservation with council offices in nearby Nespelem, Washington. The college provides high-quality transfer, liberal arts, professional/technical, basic skills and continuing education for students of diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds.

In the state of Washington, capital projects for community colleges have a minimum threshold of \$5 million dollars. While this threshold does not impact our Wenatchee campus, *this barrier prevents our Omak campus from requesting or attaining a suitable educational facility* for the foreseeable future. The proposed 'Health Science Center – North' on our Omak campus would ensure a quality educational facility that will serve our most at-risk and underserved population in the state in academic programs that are in the most need for our rural communities.

The proposed Health Science Center will provide space to house the following programs: Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Laboratory Technician, Chemical Dependency, Tribal Business, and American Indian Indigenous Studies programs as well as provide space for continuing education programs. Additionally, this facility will provide space for instrumental student support and other comprehensive student support services. Students will be able to train in simulation rooms typically found in hospital and medical center settings, increasing the students to transition from student to health care related employment.

Telephone
509.422.7100

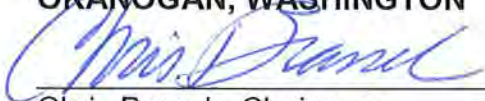
123 Fifth Avenue N. * Room 150 * Okanogan * Washington * 98840
TTY/Voice use 800.833.6388

Fax
509.422.7106

We have an opportunity at this moment to make a significant impact in Okanogan County and the Colville Indian Reservation with a force multiplier: The Health Science Center – North is needed to provide a quality education for our rural workforce, which will change the lives of families through better employment opportunities *and* increase the capacity of quality healthcare in an underserved area of our state. Without Community Project Funding, this would not be possible. Please nominate this project today.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**



Chris Branch, Chairman

ABSENT

Andy Hover, Vice Chairman



Jim DeTro, Member



April 5, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to demonstrate our support for a Health Science Center building for Wenatchee Valley College's Omak campus. This is a significant need in our community and we hope that you will nominate this project for Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2022.

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We have an opportunity at this moment to make a significant impact in Okanogan County and the Colville Indian Reservation with a force multiplier: The Health Science Center – North is needed to provide a quality education for our rural workforce, which will change the lives of families through better employment opportunities *and* increase the capacity of quality healthcare in an underserved area of our state. Without Community Project Funding, this would not be possible. Please nominate this project today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alyce Brown'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alyce Brown
Executive Director, NCWEDD

April 5, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to demonstrate our support for a Health Science Center building for Wenatchee Valley College's Omak campus. This is a significant need in our community and we hope that you will nominate this project for Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2022.

Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) is a State of Washington-supported two-year community college that was established in the City of Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington in 1939. WVC went on to establish a branch campus in the City of Omak, Okanogan County, in the mid 1970's. The Wenatchee Valley College district is the size of Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined, covering more than 10,000 square miles of Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties. The Wenatchee campus is located near the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains, midway between Seattle and Spokane. The WVC Omak campus is located near the Canadian border in Omak, about 100 miles north of Wenatchee and draws students from neighboring communities on the Colville Indian Reservation with council offices in nearby Nespelem, Washington. The college provides high-quality transfer, liberal arts, professional/technical, basic skills, and continuing education for students of diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds.

In the state of Washington, capital projects for community colleges have a minimum threshold of \$5 million. While this threshold does not impact our Wenatchee campus, *this barrier prevents our Omak campus from requesting or attaining a suitable educational facility* for the foreseeable future. The proposed 'Health Science Center – North' at the Omak campus would ensure a quality educational facility that will serve our most at-risk and underserved population in the state with academic programs that are the most needed for our rural communities.

The proposed Health Science Center will provide space to house the following programs: Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Laboratory Technician, Chemical Dependency, Tribal Business, and American Indian Indigenous Studies programs as well as provide space for continuing education programs. Additionally, this facility will provide space for instrumental student support and other comprehensive student support services. Students will be able to train in simulation rooms typically found in hospital and medical center settings, increasing the students to transition from student to health care related employment. This is of special interest to Mid Valley Hospital and Clinic for recruiting for valuable nursing and laboratory positions.

We have an opportunity at this moment to make a significant impact in Okanogan County and the Colville Indian Reservation with a force multiplier: The Health Science Center – North is needed to provide a quality education for our rural workforce, which will change the lives of families through better employment opportunities *and* increase the capacity of quality healthcare

in an underserved area of our state. Without Community Project Funding, this would not be possible. Please nominate this project today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Fisher', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alan J. Fisher, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

April 5, 2021

*Carlene R. Anders
PO Box 295
Pateros WA 98846
(509)733-0318*

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for a Health Science Center building for Wenatchee Valley College's Omak campus. The proposed facility is planned to house training of students in select medical fields and other continuing education programs. Support for this project is highly needed. It has been a challenge for smaller community college satellite campuses to meet the minimum threshold of \$5 million for capital projects.

As someone who has been part of this community since 1974, I have personally seen how Wenatchee Valley College has made a real difference to students pursuing careers that require a higher education. Wenatchee Valley College-Omak has been an integral part of continuing education in Okanogan County and beyond. I encourage you to nominate this project for Community Project Funding for the fiscal year of 2022.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carlene R. Anders
Executive Director, Okanogan Co. Long Term Recovery Group
Mayor, City of Pateros



April 5, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am excited to offer our support for a Health Science Center building for Wenatchee Valley College's Omak campus. The Nursing program at our Omak Campus is a well-known program recognized throughout the state for the quality nurses that they produce, and it has needed a new location to expand this great program as well as the other programs identified for this new space. We hope that you will nominate this project for Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2022.

In the state of Washington, capital projects for community colleges have a minimum threshold of \$5 million dollars. While this threshold does not impact our Wenatchee campus, *this barrier prevents our Omak campus from requesting or attaining a suitable educational facility* for the foreseeable future. The proposed 'Health Science Center – North' on our Omak campus would ensure a quality educational facility that will serve our most at-risk and underserved population in the state in academic programs that are in the most need for our rural communities. Our Omak campus is essential to our Okanogan County communities and our local economy. We are seeing many of our young people who are choosing to stay and attend their first two years locally and we need to have the space and the programs that are in demand to fit their needs.

The proposed Health Science Center will provide space to house the following programs: Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Laboratory Technician, Chemical Dependency, Tribal Business, and American Indian Indigenous Studies programs as well as provide space for continuing education programs. Additionally, this facility will provide space for instrumental student support and other comprehensive student support services. Students will be able to train in simulation rooms typically found in hospital and medical center settings, increasing the students to transition from student to health care related employment.

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Please let me know if you have any questions you can contact me at 509-322-4634 or by email at rholderdiefenbach@economic-alliance.com.

Respectfully-

Roni Holder-Diefenbach
Executive Director

P.O. Box 626
320 Omak Avenue
Omak, WA 98841
509-826-5107
509-322-4634
www.economic-alliance.com





April 6th, 2021

To whom it may concern,

As CEO of Family Health Centers, with eleven clinics, two pharmacies and several other programs in Okanogan County providing primary care and oral health to under-resourced populations, I am writing this letter to demonstrate our support for a Health Science Center building for Wenatchee Valley College's Omak campus. This is a significant need in our community and we hope that you will nominate this project for Community Project Funding for fiscal year 2022. One of the greatest challenges to the economic vitality of this county is the flight of human capital as too many high school graduates leave this county without much interest in coming back. As one of the larger employers, it is difficult to find skilled labor because of the lack of higher education opportunities in this county.

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The proposed Health Science Center will provide space to house the following programs:



Nursing, Nursing Assistant, Medical Laboratory Technician, Chemical Dependency, Tribal Business, and American Indian Indigenous Studies programs as well as provide space for continuing education programs. Additionally, this facility will provide space for instrumental student support and other comprehensive student support services. Students will be able to train in simulation rooms typically found in hospital and medical center settings, increasing the students to transition from student to health care related employment.

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Respectfully,

Jesús Hernández, MPA
Chief Executive Officer