

Wayne State University Macomb County Extension Center

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President, or his designee, to design, solicit bids and award contracts to renovate the Macomb County Library to establish the Wayne State University Macomb County Education Center for a cost not to exceed \$3,725,000. Funding for this project will be provided from FY2008 year end budgetary savings.

Background and Project Description

Wayne State University has been offering courses and programs in Macomb County for more than 30 years. In 1991, WSU was one of the first universities to enter into an agreement with Macomb Community College to offer courses and programs at the Macomb University Center on the College's Center Campus in Clinton Township. Since then, WSU has offered a range of courses, degree and degree completion programs aimed at providing the residents of Macomb County with increased access to baccalaureate and master degree programs in areas such as education, social work, and business, among others.

Despite the availability of baccalaureate and graduate degree programs through the Macomb University Center, the need for an expanded presence for Wayne State as a stand-alone university serving Macomb County, "the third largest county in the State of Michigan without a four-year institution" remains a high priority for Federal, State, and County officials, as well as WSU administration. In 2007, the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth in Macomb County and the Institute for Higher Education Policy each concluded that Wayne State University can meet the growing post secondary education needs of Macomb County and its residents.

In addition, WSU commissioned STRATUS, a higher education consulting firm, to conduct its own study, Opportunity Assessment: WSU's Role in Macomb County, which also concluded that there is sufficient demand to justify having Wayne State establish a formal presence as Macomb County's four year university. This will be accomplished through a multi-faceted strategy with thematic -focused centers across the County. One such center will be the Wayne State University Advanced Technology Education Center which will be developed in partnership with Macomb College on their South Campus.

To establish its first center, the administration has negotiated and executed an agreement that has the University leasing the former Macomb County Library with the goal of renovating and adapting most of the library building into instructional space where WSU degree and degree completion programs will be offered. The 25 year lease is for \$1.00 per year with the University assuming the cost for operating and maintaining the building. With the addition of this facility, the University will leverage its existing programs at the University Center and expand our program offerings to include:

- Master of Education, Special Education-Learning Disabilities
- Master of Arts in Teaching
- Master of Library and Information Science
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Master of Social Work
- Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Public Relations
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Education
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in Special Education
- Bachelor of Arts in Math/Science
- Bachelor of Arts/Science in English
- Bachelor of Arts in Business Anthropology
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- Bachelor of Arts in Nutrition and Food Science with Certificate in Culinary Arts/Management

The Macomb County Library building is located at 16480 Hall Road in Clinton Township, adjacent to and north of Macomb County Community College's center campus. The library is a one-story, 29,000 square foot structure comprised of book stack areas, reading and research zones, administrative space and a special services area for deaf and blind patrons.

The renovated facility will include space for a Reference and Research Center which will be open to the public and also serve the research needs of WSU students. Administrative functions will be relocated and reduced in size. The facility will also retain the existing space and services of the Library of the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which will be operated by Macomb County. The current plan provides nine new classrooms, four seminar rooms and a computer lab that will have executive style conference room seating. A student lounge and shared faculty offices will also be constructed. The facility will be upgraded to meet the code requirements for a classroom facility by increasing the number of exits and fixture counts in new ADA rest rooms. The project will include renovations to the plumbing, mechanical, and electrical systems. The heating and air conditioning systems will be expanded to meet needs dictated by the conversion of the interior from a large open space layout to individual enclosed classrooms, seminar rooms and offices. Architectural improvements include new walls, upgrades to the finishes and new furniture. Additionally, there will be significant exterior signage identifying the building as the Wayne State University Macomb County Education Center.

All contracts for this project will be awarded in accordance with University policies and procedures, and construction will not start until the project has been approved by the State of Michigan Legislature's Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee.