PORT OF BELLINGHAM
Washington State

Innovation update

GOALS

Waterfront Innovation Zone

Increase *the concentration of leading edge and diversified marine and related industries on the waterfront.*

Integrate *and coordinate community resources to stimulate the growth of technology-dependent business.*

Enhance *the ability of Western Washington University College of Sciences and Technology to carry out research and development projects in partnership with regional technology-driven industries.*

Develop *on-site training through Bellingham Technical College to craft a workforce for the future.*

Attract *federal research grants and contracts to enhance WWU's applied research capacity.*

Target *small- to-medium-sized businesses utilizing state-of-the-art technologies to improve their processes and products.*

INTRODUCING

The Port of Bellingham's Waterfront Innovation Zone Technology Development Center

The Port of Bellingham has been instrumental in taking the Waterfront Innovation Zone (also known as "the WIZ"), a state designated Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ), from concept to reality. This project includes the Port's Technology Development Center, under construction now, which marries research & development, private sector needs, practical application of technologies, and workforce training.

Gov. Chris Gregoire created IPZs to promote and develop the state's regional economies by determining unique geographic areas that will become globally recognized as hubs of expertise, innovation and commercialization. The Port became one Gregoire's first IPZ designees after advancing the benefits of the area's marine industry cluster, the capabilities of the partners involved in creating innovation, and the potential for application to real-world needs.

> **"Innovation Partnership Zones will be powerful economic engines to support our regional economies."**
>
> *Gov. Chris Gregoire--2007*

IPZ | Washington State Innovation Partnership Zones

With the help of a $1 million state IPZ grant and $245,000 federal grant, the Port immediately began work on design and construction of a 10,000 square foot WIZ: Technology Development Center. This Center, which opens in September, will bring together research (through Western Washington University) that will be applied to private sector problems (such as low-wake hydrofoil development for high-speed ferries), and practical work-force training for the new technologies (through Bellingham Technical College).

WIZ will be the "go-to place" for the development of new technologies for marine and other related industries, a place where the public and private sector partner to make this industry more efficient, more sustainable, and more innovative.

Technology Development Center Programs

Bellingham Technical College's

primary goal is implementation of on-site workforce training delivery with an emphasis on the marine-related trades. Courses and workshops for new and incumbent workers will be provided at the classroom and lab space in the new WIZ Technology Development Center.

The Maritime Industry's training needs are very diverse, and employees must have multiple skill sets. To address that diversity, BTC will design instructional space that includes computers with simulation software and a unique multi-functional lab with hands-on training stations in a variety of trade areas for incumbent workers and other students.

The electro-mechanical program will be the first instructional program to locate in the Center. Instructors will be on-site to provide courses in the 2,500 square foot training lab and 850 square foot class center it shares with WWU.

The Technology Development Center serves as a point-of contact and resource hub for industry trends, best practices, innovative curriculum and professional development opportunities.

The technical areas addressed by BTC workforce training in the new Center will include:

- Electro-mechanical training instruction for new and incumbent workers
- Electronics, electrical, and instrumentation, with an emphasis on marine industry needs
- Mechanical systems, with an emphasis on marine diesel engines
- Machining with some composites.
- Alternative energy and environmental friendly mechanical and industrial practices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Bellingham Technical College has over fifty years of expertise educating students to become skilled workers in a variety of high-demand, high-wage technical careers. BTC houses the Washington State Center of Excellence in Process and Control Technology. The Center of Excellence supports the related workforce programs at BTC and is designed to help address the changing needs of industries in process, instrumentation, electronics, and electro-mechanical technology.

The College has nationally recognized diesel, construction, and welding programs and is expanding its offerings in alternative energy. The ongoing use of new technology is essential to keep U.S. industry competitive in a global market. he College has aprimary role in developing a skilled workforce to implement new technological practices, efficiencies, and systems, and the WIZ space will be used to further these efforts.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Technology Development Center Programs

Western Washington University

will use its 4,587 square foot facility space in the WIZ Technology Development Center for applied research and development projects in partnership with regional technology companies, with a focus on marine and related industries.
The primary goals for WWU projects in the Center are the following:

- To provide an R&D space in which technology companies can collaborate with WWU faculty and students on projects that will improve the competitiveness of the companies' products and/or services.
- Via collaborative projects with WWU, to provide technology companies with access to sophisticated instrumentation and technical services not otherwise available to them.
- To provide technology companies opportunities to partner with WWU in pursuit of government grants and contracts to support collaborative R&D projects.
- To provide a collaborative workspace for the local entrepreneurial community to meet for brainstorming sessions and to engage WWU faculty and students in entrepreneurial projects.

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The Center work spaces have been designed in a flexible manner, so that a wide range of R&D projects can be accommodated. A unique feature of the Center is a state-of-the-art particle collection and air circulation system that enables the fabrication and testing of large scale components from advanced composite materials. This capability will be utilized for collaborative R&D projects between WWU and the marine industry and other transportation-related projects in which advanced composites are envisioned for a range of applications.

In addition to increasing the global competitiveness of start-up and existing regional technology companies, the activities in the Center will provide a variety of benefits for WWU faculty and students. These benefits include new opportunities and support for faculty – student applied R&D projects, student internships in applied science and technology, and linking students with growing science and technology companies in the region.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Technology Development Center Opening in 2009

The first capital project within the Waterfront Innovation Zone is completion of a 10,000 square foot Technology Development Center. The facility, located in an apportioned area of an existing industrial warehouse, is leased by Western Washington University and Bellingham Technical College.

With leadership and management by the Port of Bellingham, the facility is funded by a grant from Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development, federal appropriations and the Port of Bellingham.

Features of the New Center

- 3,800 square foot applied R&D work area equipped with state-of-the-art Direct Air Flow System for dust and fume control
- 2,500 square foot workforce development education and training lab with eight education stations equipped with utility and compressed air connections.
- Distributed compressed air, vacuum mold, and dust collection systems
- 3,200 square foot storage mezzanine.
- 850 square foot training room.
- Wired rooms for media-ready capability
- Two semi-truck sized delivery doors.
- Separable office space for visiting industry representatives
- Restrooms and kitchenette facilities
- ADA accessible through-out.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTER

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