

# News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **College Receives Major Federal Grant**

*\$4 million targets expansion to support green jobs training.*

(Seattle, WA) U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke has announced the award of a \$4 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to South Seattle Community College. Funds will be used to help design and build a Leadership in Environment and Energy Design (LEED)-certified building addition at the college's Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center (PSIEC) on the Georgetown Campus.

Coupled with a \$1 million appropriation from the Washington State Legislature and a \$200,000 private donation from the Norcliffe Foundation, the proposed \$5.2 million expansion will support new green jobs training programs and other high-demand occupational training, said Joe Hauth, PSIEC director. It will also help attract new partners to promote business development and entrepreneurship training in the highly diverse communities of South Seattle.

Plans have been made for a 9,800 square foot expansion to the existing Gene J. Colin Education Building which was funded, in part, by a \$1 million gift from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The building is named in honor of Gene Colin, a long-time member of the South Seattle Community College Foundation board of directors who made a generous leadership gift.

“The expansion of the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center is consistent with the strategic goals of the Georgetown Campus to expand educational opportunities, offer new programs and provide innovative services,” said South’s interim President Gary Oertli. “We’re very pleased with this award and the opportunity to build on the strengths of our Georgetown Campus.”

LEED-certified buildings are energy efficient and use fewer natural resources. LEED certification has become the worldwide standard for determining building sustainability and is based on five major criteria: sustainable sites; water efficiency; energy and atmosphere; materials and resources; and indoor environmental quality.

When the PSIEC expansion was proposed to the Puget Sound Regional Economic Development District in 2007, the application tied for “first place regional priority.” The grant proposal also received strong support from the PSIEC Coalition, composed of elected stakeholders, and business, labor, community, and education leaders.

EDA is an agency within the U.S. Commerce Department. Its mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

### **The Georgetown Campus**

South Seattle Community College’s Georgetown Campus is a leader in green and sustainability education, offering courses in residential energy auditing, weatherization, and specialized contract training. It houses the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center (PSIEC) – *Where Industry Meets Innovation* – which provides a wide variety of training and services for the industrial business community. Also located on the Georgetown Campus is South’s Apprenticeship & Education Center, one of the largest facilities of its type on the west coast, which serves apprentices and journey-level workers in more than 20 trades.

The Georgetown Campus received a 2008 *Governor’s Economic and Workforce Development Award* and a 2009 *Vision 2020 Award* from the Puget Sound Regional Council.

### **South Seattle Community College**

South Seattle Community College serves a multicultural population of 15,000 students each year from an 87-acre, wooded campus in West Seattle, and satellite campuses in the Georgetown and Beacon Hill communities. Its programs include college transfer, professional/technical careers, distance learning, basic and transitional studies, and lifelong learning. The college also offers a four-year Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Hospitality Management. South is one of the Seattle Community Colleges.

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Gene J. Colin Education Building