

News Release

South Seattle Community College

6000 16th Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499 • www.southseattle.edu • (206) 764-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Gates Grant to South Seattle Community College

\$1 million in funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will enable South Seattle Community College to construct facilities for the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center (PSIEC). The award is part of a \$5 million challenge grant from the foundation to the Seattle Community Colleges.

The center brings together a diverse set of partners from the private and public sectors to support technical education, economic development and family-wage jobs in our region.

The PSIEC, located at the college's Duwamish Apprenticeship & Education Center in the Georgetown area of South Seattle, has built its mission around four areas:

1. Supporting existing business, especially manufacturing, transportation and construction industries, many of them family-owned enterprises.
2. Encouraging new business development, especially in the Duwamish corridor.
3. Supporting small business with a new One-stop Business and Entrepreneurial Services Center.
4. Expanding support for apprenticeship training at Duwamish, where about one-third of all apprentices in the state now receive their training.

The new center will be two buildings, housing offices, classrooms and training space. One 13,400 square-foot building will include office space and general classrooms. A second, 19,570-square-foot vocational building will enable apprentices in the "trowel" trades to receive their hands-on instruction in up-to-date facilities. Some of the existing facilities for those trades, which include cement masons, bricklayers, caulkers and tile setters, are in external areas.

Construction is expected to begin in December and the first building will be ready for occupancy in winter 2007. The PSIEC facility will be located in part on the historic “Hat & Boots” property, at Corson Ave. S. and E. Marginal Way S., which South Seattle Community College acquired in 2004.

The \$5 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the Seattle Community Colleges was announced in early November. Seattle Central Community College also received a \$1 million grant, which will be used to equip that college’s new Mathematics & Science Building. The remainder of the grant is directed toward instructional equipment and emergency grants to students, and is earmarked for distribution at the conclusion of the colleges’ \$25 million capital campaign.

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Contact: For PSIEC, Mike Munson, Public Information Officer

(206) 768-6875 mmunson@sccd.ctc.edu

For Challenge Grant, Sue Bean, Executive Director, Advancement

(206) 903-3227 sbean@sccd.ctc.edu

About the Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to reduce inequities and improve lives around the world. In developing countries, it focuses on improving health, reducing extreme poverty, and increasing access to technology in public libraries. In the United States, the foundation seeks to ensure that all people have access to a great education and to technology in public libraries. In its local region, it focuses on improving the lives of low-income families. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Patty Stonesifer and Co-chairs William H. Gates Sr., Bill Gates, and Melinda French Gates. More information is available at www.gatesfoundation.org.