$5M training hall addition opens at South Seattle Community College

By JOURNAL STAFF

South Seattle Community College cut the ribbon this week on a $5.2 million addition to the Gene J. Colin Education Hall at 6737 Corson Ave. S. in Georgetown.

The school says the new space will provide training for green jobs, and serve as a center for business development and entrepreneurial training.

The 9,800-square-foot project was built by CE&C Inc. of Tacoma and designed by Schreiber Starling & Lane Architects of Seattle.

Architect Keith Schreiber said the addition was designed for dual use as a classroom or shop space, with power and data cables in retractable drops overhead. All the furniture is on wheels so the floor to be quickly cleared and a big overhead door provides a portal for moving equipment in or out. The floor is made of stained and polished concrete for durability and smoothness.

“Flexibility was the key to the building,” Schreiber said, comparing the space to an all-purpose black dress that can be used for both formal and casual occasions.

In classroom mode, the space can seat about 75 people. It can be expanded to hold 200 with auditorium-style seating. In shop mode, the capacity is about 50.

Schreiber said the school could change the space to shop mode for a week or two to accommodate short-term training that involves a special piece of equipment or machine. He said the school is planning a video system so that asynchronous online training can be provided from the space.

The school also expanded the parking lot by 130 spaces as part of the project.

Schreiber said the team expects to get LEED silver certification for the addition in early November.

Schreiber Starling & Lane also designed the original 13,000-square-foot Gene J. Colin Education Hall. Keith Schreiber said they planned for the addition when the hall was designed. The school's master plan has room for two future buildings, maybe 10 to 20 years out.

Funding for the addition came from the state Legislature, the U.S. Economic Development Administration and the Norcliffe Foundation.

Design team members were KPFF, civil engineer; PCS Structural Solutions, structural engineer; Wood Harbinger, mechanical and electrical engineer; and Murase Associates, landscape architect.