

## Growing city will add campus of technical college to the mix

By **Peyton Whitely**  
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**Duvall** is working on becoming a college town. For a place founded in 1913 that has spent most of its existence honoring its agrarian roots — a farm wagon is part of the city's official welcoming display — that's quite a change.

But with about 6,000 **Duvall** residents now, and an expected 10,000-plus new ones in the next 20 years, Lake Washington Technical College wants to be there.

By about 2013, the Kirkland-based college expects to have a satellite campus on the south edge of **Duvall**, the first of the state's 29 community and five technical colleges with such a geographic arrangement.

The still-emerging plans involve some fast work and fleet-footed financing steps, but the effect is that the college expects to get about 10 acres on the south edge of town at a bargain price.

"Basically, we're getting \$2 ½ million, \$3 million worth of property for a half-million dollars," said Charles McWilliams, vice president of administrative services for the college.

"The bottom line — what it comes down to — is the **city** is going to give the college property," he added.

The process leading to the college plans has taken a little more than a year, added McWilliams, and included some fortuitous coincidences.

The **city** had been drafting its economic-development plans and was interested in attracting a college to the town.

At the same time, LWTC president Mike Metke was looking at growth patterns and college enrollment and thinking of expanding the college into the **Duvall** area.

Then Camwest Development of Kirkland was attracted to the project and agreed to take part in the financial maneuvers.

"He's been a major contributor," McWilliams said of the support offered by Eric Campbell, Camwest president.

"The process has been very rewarding," said **Duvall** Mayor Will Ibershof. "I believe the addition of a satellite campus in **Duvall** will be very valuable."

The **city** has created a \$5,000 scholarship program for **Duvall** students attending LWTC, something McWilliams said no other **city** has done.

"This is pretty exciting for us," he said. "It's a way of saying, 'We really want you here.' "



By December, the college had produced a **Duvall** Campus Growth Project report, which was submitted to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and resulted in a \$500,000 state grant being awarded for the satellite campus.

Then came a series of land deals. The **city** is donating five acres for the college, which will be swapped with Camwest for another five-acre parcel.

Camwest is donating that property as an in-kind contribution. The state money will be used to buy other property, resulting in 10 contiguous acres for the campus site along Big Rock Road near 268th Avenue Northeast.

A couple of other steps have to be completed before the land deals are done, said McWilliams, including having Camwest get approval for a comprehensive-plan update for its projects, and having the campus site annexed to the **city**.

Those actions are expected to be completed by March 2007, he added.

Starting construction and getting the campus open could be expected to take six to seven years, he said, depending on state funding, with an anticipated opening in 2013.

The initial campus probably would have a single three- or four-story building of 60,000 square feet; the final plans call for three buildings with a total of 180,000 square feet.

Project costs are estimated at \$34 million.

The school would have about 700 students; the present campus at 11605 132nd Ave. N.E. has the equivalent of about 3,000 full-time students, with about 7,000 students attending various classes, said McWilliams. "We see this as growth," he said.

"We don't think it's going to take away from this campus."

The college isn't even waiting until the new campus is started before extending its reach into the Snoqualmie Valley, he said.

College classes will be offered beginning in the fall through the Riverview School District at Cedarcrest High School.

When the new campus is open, McWilliams said, students from the **Duvall** area will attend classes with all the amenities expected at colleges, including full computer and laboratory capabilities and degree programs in such fields as information-technology, business and health care.

Developing the campus also is expected to lead to creating other nearby amenities, such as restaurants and shopping, added McWilliams, and maybe even private student housing to avoid long commutes.

"The feeling is that the whole valley is going to be a pretty high-growth area," he said.

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