

ITEM 143-2853-R0509

**Authorization to Finish Lower-Level of the College's  
New Instructional Building: Montana State University-  
Great Falls College of Technology**

**THAT:**

Consistent with the provisions of MCA-18-2-102(2)(c) and Board of Regents policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorize Montana State University - Great Falls College of Technology to complete the lower level of the newly constructed instruction building with a simulated hospital and healthcare education center.

**EXPLANATION:**

The 61<sup>st</sup> Montana Legislature passed HB 5 which included an amendment to fund the completion of the lower-level of the College's newest instructional building as a simulated hospital and healthcare education center; The concept of the simulated hospital and updated healthcare education center began in 2005 during conversations with healthcare providers who sought the assistance of the College to meet a continuing need for workers in a variety of allied health professions and for continuing education for these workers. This project will also complete the facility expansion started in 2005 by finishing the last unfinished space.

**(a) Project Description:**

The College underwent a significant expansion as a result of the 2005 and 2007 Legislatures, adding a 40,000 square foot instructional building housing new science labs, the Library, student resource center, distance learning, and student common areas. The Colleges facilities needs assessments and initial plans included updated health science skills labs, health science student clinical areas, and health science storage areas. As a result of escalating construction costs and decreased appropriation the College was unable to satisfy those needs and left 10,000 square feet of space rough finished but incomplete.

Through the completion of this space, the College will provide simulated clinical space for existing programs and be able to house new health care programs (e.g. cardiovascular technology, occupational therapist assistant, speech pathologist assistant, etc). When completed, the finished space could aid the College in increasing capacity in the high-demand, high-wage program areas.

The completion of this space will provide practical and simulated learning within a state-of-the art setting: preparing students for real-life scenarios through experiential patient conditions not otherwise encountered through traditional academic courses. Experiential knowledge gained through a simulated clinical setting greatly enhances a health science

education. Moreover, hands-on simulated learning greatly improves patient care and safety once students from these types of programs become recognized medical professionals. Additionally, the simulated hospital will become a valued community resource for medical professionals to obtain continuing education, to demonstrate and practice new skills and techniques.

MSU-Bozeman Nursing in Great Falls has expressed an interest in partnership with the College to identify ways to share facilities and resources as they pertain to simulated healthcare programming. They currently have a small simulated lab located at Benefis Healthcare's West Campus. MSU-Great Falls will actively engage MSU-Bozeman Nursing in identifying potential areas for collaboration to avoid duplication of equipment and services. The College will also welcome and encourage the use of the facility by other units of the MUS as well as community-based organizations.

The Simulated Hospital will host a variety of traditional healthcare equipment such as beds, examination tables, and general instrumentation. However, the facility will also offer students and instructors alike an opportunity to utilize high-tech training devices that will benefit the practical, hands-on learning approach that will only be found in this simulated setting.

While the state-appropriated funding will not cover the equipment needs of the new space, equipment will be purchased through fund raising efforts, grants, and student equipment fee funds.

**(b) Cost Estimate**

Construction	796,545
A & E fee	81,555
Project Administration	9,475
Contingency	132,670
HVAC, testing & commissioning	<u>89,920</u>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</b>	<b>\$1,110,165</b>

Additional funding for equipment will come from donations, grants, and student equipment fees.

**(c) Programs Served, Enrollment Data, Projected Enrollments:**

This simulated hospital will serve the clinical needs of the

following programs: Practical Nursing Radiology Technology, Respiratory Therapy, Surgical Technology, Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, EMT/Paramedic, Health Information Technology, as well as potential programs in Pharmacy Technology, Medical Lab Technology, Speech Pathologist Assistant and Occupational Therapist Assistant.

Collectively pre-health science and health science programs comprise the majority of the College's programming. Increasing enrollments are anticipated in nearly all health sciences programs with the only limiting factor being capacity within the programs themselves. In AY09 there were over 678 students in the College's health sciences programs making up nearly ½ of the total degree-seeking enrollment. The addition of the simulated hospital and enhanced health education center will allow for increased capacity in many of these programs. For example, the College currently has over 180 pre-nursing students who currently vie for 20 slots in the nursing program.

**(d) Space Utilization:**

The completion of this project will add 10,700 square feet of finished area. The primary use of this space will be for simulated healthcare and health education programming. This space also includes bathroom and locker room facilities to serve the new building expansion.

**(e) Projected use for Available Residual Space**

Not Applicable to this request.

**(f) Projected O & M Costs**

There will be no additional Operations & Maintenance (O&M) costs associated with the completion of this space. The currently projected and submitted O&M for this space was included with the entire new facility.