

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday, December 10, 2010

DISCUSSION ITEM A: Advanced Manufacturing Training & Technology Center at Vincennes University- Jasper Campus

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission for Higher Education evaluate the following project: *Advanced Manufacturing Training & Technology Center at Vincennes University- Jasper Campus*. Staff recommends action for this project at a future Commission meeting which will include staff analysis.

Background

By statute, the Commission for Higher Education must review all projects to construct buildings or facilities costing more than \$500,000, regardless of the source of funding. Each repair and rehabilitation project must be reviewed by the Commission for Higher Education and approved by the Governor, on recommendation of the Budget Agency, if the cost of the project exceeds seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) and if any part of the cost of the project is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees assessed all students. Such review is required if no part of the project is paid by state appropriated funds or by mandatory student fees and the project cost exceeds one million dollars (\$1,000,000). A project that has been approved or authorized by the General Assembly is not subject to review by the Commission for Higher Education. However, the Commission for Higher Education shall review a project approved or authorized by the General Assembly if the review is requested by the Budget Agency or the Budget Committee. This project was authorized by the General Assembly.

The Trustees of Vincennes University request authorization to proceed with the Jasper Center for Applied Technology & Advanced Manufacturing. This project was first authorized in the 2007 legislative session. It is eligible for fee replacement at a bonding level of \$8 million. The total project cost is \$12 million, with the remaining \$4 million to come from businesses and industry partners, and Vincennes University and Foundation endowments. Since they have anticipated this project to be coming over the last many years, all funds have been set aside. In addition, as a demonstration of the corporate commitment to this project, Masterbrand has donated ten acres of prime commercial property adjacent to the Jasper Campus, valued at approximately \$350,000.

Supporting Document

Advanced Manufacturing Training & Technology Center at Vincennes University- Jasper Campus, December 10, 2010.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TRAINING & TECHNOLOGY CENTER AT THE VINCENNES UNIVERSITY – JASPER CAMPUS

Project Description

PROJECT SUMMARY:

A state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Training and Technology Center at the Jasper campus. This new facility will bring both technical and specialized training not only to greater Dubois County but also to southwestern, south central, and south eastern Indiana. In addition, this new facility will provide the opportunity to bring many of Vincennes University technical programs, currently offered only on the Vincennes campus, to the Jasper campus.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Advanced Manufacturing Training & Technology Center to be located at Vincennes University's campus in Jasper will be a powerful asset in enhancing the capacity to serve as a technical and specialized training center for southwestern, south-central, and southeastern Indiana. The Jasper facility will have advance manufacturing and technology, focusing on manufacturing, but also bring technology to the Jasper campus which they currently do not have. Primarily serving commuting students this facility will provide instruction of in-demand employment skills as well as degree earning opportunities.

Participants would have full access to the multi-purpose training labs and specialized facilities housed in the new center. Students may also utilize other facilities on the Jasper campus which offers the full complement of resources to degree and non-degree seeking students. Campus labs, facilities, and resources are also available to support training in the use of specialized software, manufacturing and production processes, or skill development that would meet employer needs.

RELATIONSHIP TO MISSION AND LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Vincennes University fulfills a unique role in Indiana's system of higher education. As a public, comprehensive university, Vincennes University has a two-fold mission: preparing graduates for junior level transfer into four-year colleges and universities, and preparing two-year occupational graduates with the job skills needed to achieve immediate job placement, as well as with the academic skills necessary to support lifelong learning. The new Advance Manufacturing and Technology Center on the Jasper campus will be instrumental in allowing VU to be the leader in high-tech Business and Industry and vocational education. It will act as a catalyst for the continuous upgrading of the region's human capital and will be an incentive for sustaining and attracting new industry. We believe this project will result in a significant return on investment by promoting economic development and expansion along the greater Dubois County area and in surrounding areas. This initiative is consistent with VU's long-range planning and unique educational mission.

NEED AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES:

Vincennes University has recognized for many years that Indiana is unique as a leading manufacturing state. In addition, VU realizes that centers of manufacturing equate to a large need for human and intellectual capital. Therefore, considerable time and resources have been spent over the past decades in developing special curriculum and evaluate techniques tailored to suite the diverse industrial needs of Indiana. The strength of Vincennes University lies in its ability to adapt to the ever changing business and technical world to fulfill the employment needs of Indiana through specialized training. However the proposed Workforce Development Campus needs a cooperative effort between business and industry throughout Indiana.

Vincennes University believes that Indiana is alive with vibrant communities, attractive employment opportunities, and industries that 'make a difference' within the state. This initiative will establish Vincennes University as a Technology Center that will provide the technical assistance for new development, high tech companies and future technology training for all industry. This facility will also be used as a primary focus point by the Indiana Department of Commerce in attracting new business to the state of Indiana.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No acceptable alternatives that were cost-effective were apparent. The new Advanced Manufacturing Training and Technology Center on the Jasper campus is designed to utilize state-of-the-art technologies in a centralized location in a cost-effective manner.

RELATIONSHIP TO LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLANS

The addition of the new Advanced Manufacturing Training and Technology Center in Jasper is consistent with the University's plans of providing high quality facilities to meet the growing needs of specialized programs.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

None