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## Meyer Memorial Trust fortifies the STEM future at Clark College

\$400,000 grant for lab equipment, furnishings, technology

VANCOUVER, Wash.—Meyer Memorial Trust has provided a \$400,000 grant to Clark College for equipment, furnishing and educational materials for the college's upcoming science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) building.

Lisa Gibert, president/CEO, Clark College Foundation, said "Meyer Memorial Trust recognizes and understands the regional and national shortage of trained STEM employees and has taken this step to ensure Southwest Washington is fully preparing students for the workforce with access to current technology, proper lab space, lighting, tables and other furnishings. We are grateful for their leadership in modernizing our new STEM facility."

Clark College President Robert K. Knight praised Meyer Memorial Trust for its support of the foundational courses and associate degrees that Clark offers in STEM. "The college will now have the resources to educate more students and enable Clark faculty to teach in contemporary physical and virtual learning environments so that students are exposed to a full spectrum of approaches."

Economists project that there will be 18,700 STEM jobs in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties by the year 2021, according to Scott Bailey, regional economist with the Washington Employment Security Department.

To meet the demand, Clark is poised to be a regional leader in STEM education and job training. The college will break ground on a new public/private-financed STEM building in September. The more than 70,000 square-foot facility will house many of Clark's STEM programs at its campus on Fort Vancouver Way. When completed, the center will serve in partnership with industry and other educational institutions to foster exploration, interactive learning and innovative teaching techniques for women and men.

Meyer Memorial Trust, funded through the estate of Fred G. Meyer, founder of the Fred Meyer supermarket chain, invests in people, ideas and efforts that deliver significant social benefit to Oregon and Clark County, Wash., through inspiring, innovating, partnering and leading to improve the quality of life in those regions.

Clark College Foundation is currently in a \$20 million comprehensive fundraising campaign and this grant supports the initiative of boosting STEM education.

<u>Clark College Foundation</u> is a nonprofit charity that serves as the fundraising partner of <u>Clark College</u> in support of student learning and program excellence. The foundation is nationally recognized for excellence in superior fundraising.