Examples of Shovel Ready College and University Construction Projects

In the current challenging economic environment, institutions have been forced or have opted to postpone capital projects that are ready to commence. This has had ripple effects on local economies.

The following list is a sample of the kinds and the diversity of college and university infrastructure projects that are ready for immediate construction. They range from the renovation and greening of existing facilities to the construction of new academic and research facilities to deferred maintenance projects. These projects and hundreds more like them at two-and four-year, public and private colleges and universities across the nation are shovel ready as defined by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. They are not listed in any particular order:

**Arizona State University (ASU) – Tempe, Arizona**
ASU has plans to build an Interdisciplinary Science and Technology Building to house its School of Earth and Space Exploration. The conceptual design has been completed, land acquired, site preparation is underway, and the detailed design is also completed. It is awaiting funding to proceed. **The cost of the project is $185 million. It will create 600 jobs onsite, support an additional 3,050 jobs, and have a total economic impact of $283 million.**

**Austin College – Sherman, Texas**
Austin College seeks to build a new, energy efficient, LEED* Silver, state of the art science building. It will house biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science and environmental science and will include an observatory for expansion of the astronomy program. Lab space will be doubled, allowing the college to complete the move to more experiential learning in the sciences. **The cost of the project is $36.5 million. It will produce approximately 1,200 construction jobs.**


**Delaware Technical & Community College – with campuses in Dover, Georgetown, Stanton, and Wilmington, Delaware**
In its recent Capital Needs Report, Delaware Tech identified a total of $38.5 million in deferred maintenance and renovation needs at its campuses across the state. In addition, the report also identified the need to build a new state of the art Health Sciences Building in each county at the Stanton, Terry, and Owens campuses to respond to the healthcare community’s acute nursing and allied health workforce shortage. **The cost to break ground on the Stanton Campus’ Health Science Building is $31.4 million. Students who graduate in these fields will earn high salaries and contribute to the economic development of the state.**

**California State University System (CSU)**
The 23 campuses of the California State University system have an extensive inventory of shovel ready infrastructure projects that it would like to initiate. These projects are grouped in categories that include renovations to improve accessibility, minor capital outlays to upgrade classrooms and labs, capital construction to improve energy efficiency and utility conservation, seismic strengthening, major renovations and construction to expand the capacity of the system to accommodate growth in the student population, and finally, a
number of rapid start projects that could be initiated and completed within a year’s time. If funded in total, the projects that have been selected would reduce carbon emissions among the 23 campuses by an estimated 90,000 metric tons of Green House Gases. The total costs to complete all projects on the list is $1.3 billion, with 40% of those funds (or $520M) going to construction labor, and 60% for construction materials to support 13,000 jobs.

Linfield College – McMinnville, Oregon
In total, Linfield College has identified $25 million in deferred maintenance projects. However, it has prioritized three historic buildings that are critically in need of attention. Built in 1883, Pioneer Hall requires enhanced preservation to its historic exterior, along with electrical upgrades, plumbing repairs, fire/life/safety upgrades and a new heating system. Melrose Hall (1929) and Dana Hall (1958) need comparable renovation. The cost of the entire project is $6.65, and work could begin immediately. It would provide much needed construction jobs in Oregon, where construction jobs are down 11 percent from one year ago. Some of the work would employ small, locally owned contracting companies in the Yamhill County area. Other parts of the project require expertise in specialties, available in the Portland-metro area.

North Hennepin Community College – Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
The college plans a renovation as well as an addition to its Business and Technology facility. The expansion will add classroom space, support business and technology online programs, adult education and non-credit training programs for business and industry, and support STEM initiatives. The cost of the project is $13.97 million, and is part of a total of $141,433,000 community college renovation projects that the state of Minnesota has deemed “shovel ready.” Undertaking this project would enhance the capacity of the college to train displaced workers for new career opportunities.

University of Wisconsin – Madison, Wisconsin
Because the state of Wisconsin is limited to issuing bonds for construction equivalent to 4% of its operating budget, as the state budget shrinks, the ability to finance needed capital projects diminishes commensurately. This has contributed to an accumulated deferred maintenance backlog of approximately $750 million at UW-Madison. The university has prioritized two projects – the Charter Street Heating Plant Conversion and the renovation of the Wisconsin Bioenergy Building -- for immediate attention. The total cost of the two projects is $250 million.

University of the Cumberlands – Williamsburg, Kentucky
Work could begin immediately on a campus infrastructure project planned by the University of the Cumberlands. The project would encompass a residence hall, married student housing, faculty housing, a health and wellness center, and an expansion of the medical/science facility. The project is projected to cost $35 million and would create an estimated 1,400 project jobs and 81 permanent jobs.

California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) – Valencia, California
CalArts has developed a set of targeted renovations that have been planned to yield financial savings through energy efficiencies, but which have the added bonus of ‘greening’ the 40-year old main building. It would encompass the replacement of 4 remaining original hot-water boilers with energy-efficient heat-on-demand boilers, as well as asbestos removal. The cost of this project is $689,000 and it would reap $42,000 in annual energy savings.
Arizona Western College (AWC) – Yuma, Arizona
Due to state budget cuts and reductions in property taxes, Arizona Western College was forced to defer plans to renovate three buildings in order to provide much needed additional classroom space for mathematics instruction and advising, humanities instruction and advising, and a Center for Teaching Effectiveness. These projects were approved by the District Governing Board but have been placed on indefinite hold due to a lack of funds. Last year, AWC was forced to absorb a $1,100,000 cut from its approved budget and may face an additional $1,100,000 cut next year. **Total renovation costs are $7.4 million and the labor costs would be a boon to Yuma and La Paz counties, which are both designated as Enterprise Zones due to high rates of poverty.** Recent unemployment rates were 20% for Yuma County, and 8% for La Paz County against a rate of 6% for Arizona as a whole.

Donnelly College – Kansas City, Kansas
At present, Donnelly College is the only federally designated Minority Serving Institution and Hispanic Serving Institution in the region. The original Donnelly College building was built as a hospital in 1923 and was retro-fitted for the College in 1978. A modernization project involving renovation and new construction will encompass energy efficient systems, green installations and a redesign of the library and student services area. The plan is executable in February of 2009. **Renovation and construction costs are $9.82 million and are expected to result in approximate savings of more than $72,000 annually in utilities costs.** It is anticipated that this project will involve over 250 individual contractors and workers.

Ferris State University (FSU) – Big Rapids, Michigan
FSU can begin work right away on an array of construction and renovation projects on it’s main campus as well as the renovation and conversion of the federal building acquired to provide gallery, classroom and studio space for the Grand Rapids campus – the Kendall College of Art and Design. On the main campus, projects include renovation of the Education & Human Resources building, the Jim Crow Museum, construction of student housing, and renovation of the Automotive and Heavy Equipment Instruction Building. **The total cost of the array of shovel ready projects is $159.7 million.**

Hillsborough Community College Brandon Campus – Tampa, Florida
The exterior tile façade of the campus is failing, necessitating a complete replacement of the skins for all campus buildings. The current plan calls for a lengthy replacement of the exterior surfaces for the seven buildings that comprise the campus. Spreading out the duration of this project to minimize the annual expense will add to the overall cost of completion. **It would cost $6 million to complete the tile replacement on all seven buildings at one time.**

Tennessee Technological University (Tennessee Tech) – Cookeville, Tennessee
In addition to launching phase 3 and phase 4 of the project to replace inefficient and costly air-conditioning systems with more efficient ones, the university has plans to update the Appalachian Center for Craft, improve its STEM facility, and renovate its chemistry building. **The cost of this multi-part project is $7.3 million.**

University of Denver – Denver, Colorado
The University will implement a plan to construct Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall which will house the Morgridge College of Education and the Learning Effectiveness and Disability Service
programs, allowing for wider integration of methodologies for education students with a variety of learning challenges. The project cost is $21 million and the project will employ upwards of 800 individuals both on site and at subcontractor’s facilities.

Dixie State College of Utah – St. George, Utah
This shovel ready project involves the demolition of an inefficient, non-code compliant facility and building in its place a multi-use facility modeled on the Utah Valley University’s new Digital Learning Center – dubbed the “greenest building in Utah”. Dixie State has an architectural plan to build the facility that incorporates many of the same program elements, flexible design characteristics, and sustainability concepts. The cost has been set at $48 million, reached by negotiating a lower square foot price by engaging the services of the same design/construction team that built the Utah Valley Digital Learning Center.

Middlebury College – Middlebury, Vermont
Among several projects that Middlebury College could undertake as soon as funds were secured is the renovation of Munroe Hall to provide ADA accessibility to the heavily-used classroom and academic office building. Renovation will include window replacement to increase energy efficiency, the addition of a passenger elevator, and other accessibility features. In addition, the project involves an overhaul of the building infrastructure and mechanical system, lighting and the installation of a sprinkler system. A total of $6.85 million is needed for this project, and it is estimated that $4,110,000 of the total project cost will be paid to Vermont construction tradespersons and design professionals.

Western Michigan University – Kalamazoo, Michigan
Sangren Hall, the most heavily utilized classroom building, is functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. The building, which houses teaching laboratories, offices, research labs, a branch of the university Libraries, and numerous lecture halls, affects nearly every student throughout their time at WMU. The university plans a thorough going renovation of the current building. Upon completion, this shovel ready project is would meet LEED standards - providing the university an approximate 30% annual energy cost savings. The projected cost of the renovation is $42 million and it is estimated that the project will create 2,000 jobs.

Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM) – Portland, Oregon
OCOM, a premier graduate institution for the study of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, is relocating its campus to the historic Old Town/Chinatown District of Portland as part of the city’s strategic plan to revitalize this area by attracting new business and activity. In addition to expanding its full-time student body, the move will allow the college to build strategic alliances with the University of Oregon, Portland State University and the Oregon Health & Sciences University to study new integrated medical therapies and training healthcare workers in complementary and alternative medicine. The relocation entails renovation and new construction, and will cost $12.3 million. In this district, with a 41% poverty rate and a 31% unemployment rate, the benefits will be considerable: during the construction phase, the project will create 110 full-time jobs. One complete, OCOM will bring 50 permanent full-time positions at a prevailing wage of $22.40/hour and 80 part-time positions, growing over five years.

Arkansas State University (ASU) – Jonesboro, Arkansas
ASU is able to begin work immediate to construct a new classroom to replace an aging liberal arts facility. Not only would this replacement facility provide a more effective teaching and learning environment, but it would also reduce the institution’s carbon footprint by
employing the latest technologies for HVAC and electrical systems. **The cost of the project would be $33 Million and the project would provide jobs for approximately 400-500 people. The economic multiplier effect is estimated to be 7 times for the local economy.**

Northern Kentucky University (NKU) – Highland Heights, Kentucky
In 2006, the Kentucky General Assembly provided $35.5 million to NKU to develop and construct the Center for Informatics. It will house the new College of Informatics, including Communication, Computer Science, Business Informatics, and the Infrastructure Management Institute. Additional funding is critical if the university is to realize the full economic potential envisioned for this project. The design phase is nearing completion, the building is being fast-tracked, and construction will begin in spring 2009. **The additional funds sought to bring the project to fruition total $15 million and it is estimated to create 1,138 jobs.**

McMurry University – Abilene, Texas
McMurry University's highest priority for capital improvement is a roughly 56,000 addition to an existing science building, but the project has been halted due to the economic climate. If it is allowed to go forward, the facility will support interdisciplinary education that will challenge students, integrate student/faculty research, and encourage students to become outstanding science teachers. **The cost of the project is $28 million and the university is willing to raise funds to support 50% of the project. An estimated 336 jobs would be created.**

Utah State University – Logan, Utah
Work could begin in short order on a new building on the Logan campus to house the Emma Eccles Jones Center for Early Childhood Studies. The center conducts research that is nationally recognized and generates a large portion of the research income for the university. This building will consolidate the activities into one building and provide efficiency of scale and operation. **The cost of the facility will be $17 million. Past experience has shown that each construction dollar invested in a higher education translates into $7 for the Utah economy. Using that formula, there will be a $119 million benefit to the Utah economy as a result of this project.**

Source: ACE