

Resolution

No. 1132

- Whereas, Snohomish County is the fastest growing county in Washington State; and
- Whereas, Snohomish County is the second least-served county for "baccalaureate and graduate degrees in Washington; and
- Whereas, Workforce demands are in the applied math, science and engineering fields, trending upward in those areas, with hundreds of bachelor's degree-level jobs being recruited from out of state each year; and
- Whereas, Washington State must stay competitive in a global arena in the areas of aerospace, bio-technology, alternative energy, nano-technology, transportation and other emerging fields; and
- Whereas, Snohomish County Community Colleges enroll 40% of their students for transfer to upper level degrees each year; and
- Whereas, 40% of all bachelor's degree holders, 35% of all math, science, engineering and technology majors and 70% of all first-generation students begin their journey toward a 4-year degree at a community college; and
- Whereas, Edmonds Community College and Central Washington University serve our community on one campus, allowing students to complete a bachelor's degree seamlessly and at low cost compared to a full stand-alone 4-year university; and
- Whereas, Limited state resources create a demand for maximizing return on education investments already made through facilities and
- Whereas, Expanded opportunity for students in all socio-economic levels is essential to the overall success of our state;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Edmonds City Council supports the creation of a strong upper and graduate level university in North Snohomish County. Such a university should function as a regional/state resource focused on current applied technologies and manufacturing disciplines with a strong applied research component. We believe our educational investments must be efficient, effective and as immediately accessible as possible to as many students as are prepared for upper level and graduate work. While we need to build programs in our K-12 systems that attract and educate future higher education students, it is also critical to support and grow programs in the applied sciences in community colleges to prepare students for a world-class upper division and graduate-level university that will serve the needs of the county, region, and state.

We urge the Higher Education Coordinating Board to create this upper division and graduate level university in Snohomish County, focused on applied technologies and advanced manufacturing disciplines. We urge the Board to consider ways in which this university may begin accepting qualified students who are now seeking upper division work as soon as possible, as the workforce demand is great and growing and the supply of students is already backlogged. We also urge the Board to fully fund our existing colleges and universities already serving our region's students.

Passed, Approved, and Adopted this 24th day of October, 2006.

Gary Haakenson, Mayor

Deanna Dawson, Council President

Michael Plunkett, Councilmember

Mauri Moore, Councilmember

Ron Wambolt, Councilmember

Richard Marin, Councilmember

Peggy Pritchard Olson, Councilmember

Dave Orvis, Councilmember

Attest: City Clerk