

Willamette Career Academy

The area's newest Career and Technical Education Center, serving Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties, opening Fall 2021.



The Willamette Career Academy is harnessing the power of connection and collaboration to become a regional hub for career/technical innovation. The program will serve students and business partners from across Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties.

The WCA is modeled after **Salem-Keizer School District's outstanding Career and Technical Education Center and Clark County Washington's highly successful Cascadia Technical Academy**. These programs have experienced robust participation and enthusiasm by both students and industry partners alike. Cascadia Technical Academy has reached students from across their region for over 30 years.

The Willamette Career Academy will provide opportunity for students to explore and engage in learning high-demand skills. The program is a result of the partnership between Mountain West Investment Corporation and the Willamette Education Service District.



Through Mountain West's generous support, the former Toys-R-Us storefront on Lancaster Drive in Salem, Oregon, has been secured, and construction is underway.



The Willamette ESD, representing the region's 21 school districts, has entered into a memorandum of agreement with Mountain West, and is fully committed to program development and the program's ongoing operations.

Program Design

Program design for the Willamette Career Academy was the result of a collaborative process that included input from regional school districts, industry partners, parents and students. Course offerings were identified using local, regional, and state labor market information. Industry needs and projections factored strongly into the decisions.

- The program will provide equitable access to students in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties.
- Course offerings will complement CTE programs in regional school districts.
- Participating students will retain their school identity in their home district.
- Program design emphasizes innovation, informed by student and industry input.

Regional Impact

District superintendents and school boards are committed to the Willamette Career Academy and have pledged support and financial resources. This state-of-the-art program will prepare students for in-demand jobs, and provide access to further education and training in career pathways. Regional economies will benefit greatly from access to highly skilled workers, making our region more attractive to business and industry investment.



Project Costs

Anticipated first year project costs:
Facility: 47,000 sqft site - \$3.6 million

Facility renovation, modifications, program equipment, and supplies - \$6.5M

First year operating cost \$1M*

Total project cost -- \$11.1M

*Subsequent annual operation costs will be borne by participating school districts.



Program Scheduling

The Willamette Career Academy schedule will allow students from multiple districts to access programming while minimizing disruption to their schedule and activities in their home districts. The program will coordinate with school districts to facilitate their students' participation in career education, while allowing for instruction and participation at their home school tailored to their needs. Scheduling decisions will also accommodate access to programming at Chemeketa Community College to meet an individual student's goals.

Floor Plan & Programs

The Willamette Career Academy will open in the fall of 2021 offering the first three of six planned career tracks. The initial programs will be:

- Health Services
- Diesel Mechanics
- Cosmetology

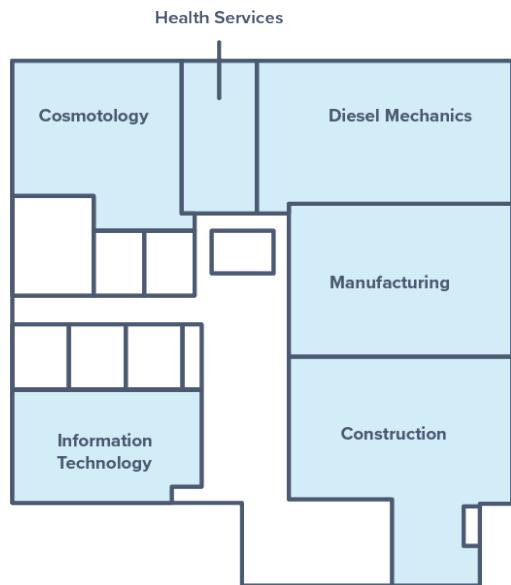
The remaining programs will open in the fall of 2022 and will include:

- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Information Technology

The six programs of study will occupy the building as displayed to the right.

Transportation

Transportation schedules and logistics will ensure safe and efficient student transport to the center from all participating school districts. Route development, varied departure times and coordination among school districts will create schedules to facilitate student movement to and from both sessions. A key goal will be efficiency aimed at minimizing student transport time as much as possible.



Location

Centralized location to serve students in Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties.

1200 Lancaster DR. NE. Salem, OR

(Former site of Toys-R-Us)

School Districts & Partners

Marion County

*Cascade School District
*Gervais Schools
*Jefferson School District
*Mt. Angel School District
*North Marion School District
*North Santiam School District
Salem-Keizer Public Schools
*Silver Falls School District
*St. Paul School District
*Woodburn School District

Polk County

Central School District
Dallas School District
*Falls City School District
Perrydale School District

Yamhill County

Amity School District
Dayton School District
*Newberg School District
Sheridan School District
Willamina School District

"We couldn't be more excited about providing expanded opportunities to our students, the hands-on type of learning we know they crave."

Ginger Redlinger, North Marion School District Superintendent

