

**Authorization to Design the
Advanced Technology Education Center
at Macomb Extension Center**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors authorize the President, or his designee, to award contracts up to \$750 000 to complete design phase activities for the eventual construction of the Advanced Technology Education Center (ATEC) in Macomb County. Funding for the design phase will be provided from Extension Center carryforward balances, which totaled \$3.2 million at 9-30-12. Total project costs are expected to be approximately \$12 million and will be funded by debt and Extension Center carryforward balances.

Background and Project Description

Wayne State University has developed a strategy to expand its operations in Macomb County to not only meet the higher education needs of the County and its citizens, but also to leverage the opportunity to increase enrollment and expand its offerings in the third largest county in the State; and one which does not have a four-year institution.

The implementation of the university's expansion strategy in Macomb started in 2007 by increasing WSU's offering at the University Center of Macomb Community College (MCC). This was followed by the development and opening of the WSU Macomb Education Center in 2010. These activities have resulted in an increase in Macomb Extension Centers enrollment from 880 in 2007 to 1685 in 2011.

The third phase of the expansion was launched with the purchase in 2011 of a one story property in Warren (formerly occupied by a Farmer Jack's Grocery store) intended to be refurbished to house the WSU Advanced Technology Education Center (ATEC). The building, at 14601 E. 12 Mile Rd directly across from MCC, is positioned on a 3.5 acre site that is completely paved.

The University's presence in the southern part of Macomb County, particularly in Warren, is of strategic importance to Wayne State. The new ATEC will enable WSU to better serve the higher education needs of County residents by providing opportunities for attaining a 4-year degree right in Macomb County. Also with a focus on computer science, business, and advanced manufacturing, the University will be able to leverage opportunities with the business community in the area, particularly the GM Tech Center, TACOM, Chrysler, and Ford. More importantly, Wayne State, working closely with MCC, will have an opportunity to create an electric vehicle technologies center of excellence where University and MCC faculty could engage in research, program development and delivery of electric and automotive battery technologies. Finally, by leveraging the partnership with MCC, including the effective implementation of WayneDirect, (our concurrent enrollment program), WSU can take advantage of a potential natural transition of over 22 000 MCC students to a 4 year institution. In this regard, we expect that the ATEC will provide an opportunity for the University to increase its Macomb extension center enrollment by 30 percent, enhance overall graduation and retention rates, and generate more than \$1.5 million in net revenues by the end of the third year of operation.

All contracts for this project will be awarded in accordance with University policies and procedures and with a focus on sustainability.