

Lord Fairfax CC gets bond financing for new building

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A \$2.1 billion bond agreement adopted by the Virginia General Assembly on March 11 includes construction funding for a new academic building at LFCC's Fauquier Campus.

The 40,000-square-foot building will focus on STEM-H disciplines (science, technology, engineering, math, and health professions). The estimated cost of construction is \$17 million.



Last fall, Gov. Terry McAuliffe included LFCC's science building in his proposed \$2.4 billion bond package to support research and economic development projects. LFCC's building remained one of the approved projects in the bond compromise reached by the legislature.

"We are thrilled and eager to get started," said Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, LFCC's president. "So many people in the Fauquier community have supported our campaign for a new building. Senator Jill Vogel and Delegate Scott Lingamfelter deserve special recognition for their advocacy and leadership at the state level."

Before construction can begin, there are a variety of site work projects that must be completed, including excavation and bringing utilities to the building. The state does not cover the costs of site work for new construction at community colleges. LFCC is responsible for covering site work expenses at an approximate cost of \$1.9 million, based on an estimate that is now three years old.

The LFCC Foundation has raised \$1.75 million for the site work portion of the project, which includes the \$1 million gift from the PATH Foundation, announced last month. The LFCC Foundation's goal is to raise an additional \$500,000 this year in order to have \$2.25 million available for site work.

Two years ago, during the 2014 General Assembly session, LFCC's science building was advanced to the planning phase. This phase precedes construction and involves permit approvals and building design.

It is highly unlikely that LFCC's science building would have advanced to the planning phase without the \$1 million gift in October 2013 from the William A. Hazel Family Foundation. The General Assembly required LFCC to pay for half of the planning expenses, because of the availability of this private donation.