

Our Views

Using Walnut Street for College Campus Expansion Supported

Centralia College administrators requested that the Centralia City Council close off Walnut Street where it runs between Iron and Rock streets.

The council agreed to set a public hearing on the proposal at its meeting last week.

The college has made steady progress over the past years, with the development of the classy Corbet Theatre, the creation of an energy technology program and the current building project of a new science center.

The Center of Excellence for Energy Technology program trains workers in the field of energy production. During a visit to the college late last year, U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell called the program "cutting edge" and said "it may end up being a model for the country."

Another project is the building of the \$32 million Science Center Complex, which will house science laboratories, and classes in biology, botany, applied health sciences, chemistry and physics. It includes a greenhouse, and the center will allow for use for community meetings and gatherings. The science center is rising in the area between Centralia College Boulevard and the Aadland Esplanade.

We believe the request to vacate the 16,000-square-foot of Walnut Street is a prudent request by the college, as that institution continues to grow in excellence and stature.

The Chronicle 1-14-08 A6

Governor Recognizes Energy Technology Center

By The Chronicle

The state Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board has designated the Center of Excellence for Energy Technology at Centralia College as one of the winners of the 2007 Governor's Award for Best Practices in Workforce Development.

The awards were announced last month at the Workforce and Economic Development 2007 Leadership Conference in Tacoma. The winners were selected for innovation in problem solving, collaboration with other partners and for their results in improving lives and businesses of participants, according to a release from the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

The center has brought together the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 77 with regional power employers such as Tacoma Power, Puget Sound Energy, and the Bonneville Power Administration to identify skill standards for jobs in electric power generation.

For more information on the center, contact Executive Director Barbara Hins-Turner at 736-9391.

The Chronicle 12-18-07 A2

Sen. Cantwell Visiting Centralia College Today

By The Chronicle

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell will visit the Center of Excellence for Energy Technology at Centralia College this afternoon.

Cantwell, a Seattle Democrat, will meet with school representatives in the Health and Sciences annex building from 12 to 1 p.m. to discuss the college's WIRED grant and the Satsop energy project.

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