

CH2M HILL Hanford Group pledges \$2 million to Washington State University

CH2M HILL Hanford Group announced that it would give a \$2 million endowment to Washington State University Tri-Cities, the largest donation ever made to this branch of the university.

CH2M HILL Hanford Group President Fran DeLozier made the announcement on May 30 at a news conference also attended by WSU President Lane Rawlins and WSU Tri-Cities Campus Executive Officer and Dean Larry James. The endowment of \$2 million in cash and in-kind contributions over a period of six years will be used to support information technology and entrepreneurial programs.

“This generous gift enables Washington State University to continue expanding the critical delivery of computer science and information technology education in the mid-Columbia region, as well as advance our efforts in other programs,” said James.

The endowment formalizes CHG’s commitment to continue the support of WSU Tri-Cities programs. The grant will benefit education in management information systems and computer science, as well as the Southeastern Washington Business Information Center, the WSU Tri-Cities’ Business LINKS, and the Yakima Valley/Tri-Cities MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program.

“Information technology jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities will be available locally,” said DeLozier. “We don’t need to create them. We are helping to provide WSU with the resources to prepare people for these jobs, while making an effort to keep them and their talent in our community. It makes economic sense to strengthen our community in this way.”

The grant continues support to strengthen the university’s computer science program. In the last year, CHG funding enabled WSU to increase its computer science faculty size by 50 percent and offer a broader array of course work.

Continued support for WSU Business LINKS will help students and area businesses. Last summer, 28 LINKS interns were placed in Tri-City businesses and non-profit and government organizations.

A Columbia Basin College/WSU transfer office established and operated with continued support from CHG is helping approximately 100 students per month. The goal is to make it easier for CBC transfer-bound students to stay in the area and earn their degrees.

Support for the MESA program will help area students who are members of minority groups that are underrepresented in mathematics, engineering and science to achieve their potential and pursue careers in those fields. ♦



CH2M HILL Hanford Group President Fran DeLozier announces a \$2 million grant to Washington State University Tri-Cities at a news conference on the Richland campus. The six-year endowment formalizes CHG’s commitment to continuing support of information technology and entrepreneurial programs.