

Research gateway photos

Wine Science Center builders selected

Friday, May 3, 2013

By Melissa O'Neil Perdue, WSU Tri-Cities



Future wine research and teaching facility at WSU Tri-Cities



RICHLAND, Wash. - The Wine Science Center Development Authority has selected Lydig Construction Inc. and ALSC Architects of Spokane to design and construct a \$23 million research and teaching facility at Washington State University Tri-Cities in Richland.

"The design-build team of Lydig Construction and ALSC Architects had the overall highest score in all categories during the procurement process," said Rob McKinney, chair of the authority.



"Lydig and ALSC conceptualized the Wine Science Center as an iconic structure that will attract world-class researchers and future students to the wine industry in Washington state, plus provide a great visitor experience within the facility," McKinney said. "The Lydig and ALSC team has a proven and excellent reputation of successfully delivering design-build projects and we look forward to working with them on this exciting project."

With the selection of Lydig and ALSC, work is to begin immediately to convert the conceptual look into design documents. Construction is expected to start this fall, with the building completed in late 2014.

The center will have approximately 39,300 gross square feet and is being designed to LEED silver environmental standards. The conceptual design includes a research and teaching winery, state-of-the-art research laboratories, classrooms, conference rooms and a regional and international wine library.

A dramatic central lobby will provide views of the research winery floor and outdoors toward the Columbia River and the WSU Tri-Cities campus. The glass lobby will open to exterior landscaped plazas on each side of the building.

The complex elements of the design will set the standard for future facilities at WSU Tri-Cities, McKinney said. As a landmark at the corner of George Washington Way and University Drive in Richland, the building will be the gateway to the Tri-Cities Research District.

The research and teaching conducted in the center will be specific to the challenges and opportunities faced by grape growers and winemakers in the Pacific Northwest. Washington's grape and wine industry aims to triple its annual economic impact from \$8.6 billion to \$25.8 billion by 2020.

The authority is a unique partnership managed by the City of Richland. The land is donated by the Port of Benton. Fundraising and financing are led by WSU. FLAD Architects and Meier Engineering serve as the program architect, and Hill International is the project management firm. Find more details about the authority at <http://www.ci.richland.wa.us/winesciencecenter>.

More than \$18 million has been pledged in the past two years for the center project, including contributions from the Washington State Wine Commission for \$7.4 million through industry assessments, the state of Washington's \$5 million Legislative grant toward construction, a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant of \$2.06 million for equipment, numerous corporate and private commitments, plus in-kind donations of equipment and professional services.

The Wine Campaign is in the final stages of fundraising to complete construction and fully equip the facility. For more details, including a video about the value of the center, visit <http://wine.wsu.edu/campaign/>.

WSU has been involved in wine-related research since the 1930s and is the only university in the Pacific Northwest offering bachelor's and graduate degrees in viticulture and enology, a wine business management program and a distance education program to earn a professional certificate. Thomas Henick-Kling joined WSU in 2009 as director of the viticulture and enology program, which has more than 30 faculty members in the Tri-Cities, Prosser and Pullman.

About WSU Tri-Cities

WSU Tri-Cities is located along the scenic Columbia River in Richland, Wash. Established in 1989 with upper division and graduate programs, WSU Tri-Cities expanded in 2007 to a four-year undergraduate campus offering 18 bachelor's, 10 master's and six doctoral degree programs. Learn about the most diverse campus in the WSU system at <http://www.tricity.wsu.edu> or call 509-372-7250. For details about WSU's viticulture and enology program, visit <http://wine.wsu.edu>.

About Lydig Construction, Inc.

Founded and incorporated in 1956, Lydig Construction has grown from a four-person organization into a multi-million dollar construction service provider with more than 130 employees located in offices in Spokane, Bellevue and Kennewick. The knowledge and capabilities of the dedicated staff are diverse, offering a wide range of construction services that include higher education, biotechnology, detention, medical, hospitality, commercial, office/TI, data/technology centers, heavy industrial and water work. To learn more, visit <http://www.lydig.com> or call 509-543-0451.

Lydig, also in partnership with ALSC, designed and built the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, Wash.

About ALSC Architects

With offices in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene, ALSC Architects is one of the region's leading architectural firms. The company provides professional planning and design services for projects ranging from education to retail, military, sports and recreation. Founded in 1948, ALSC employs 40 professionals. More information about the company is available at <http://www.alscarchitects.com> or call 509-838-8568.

Contacts:

Gary Ballew, Wine Science Center Development Authority, 509-942-7763, cell 509-554-1260, gballew@ci.richland.wa.us

Melissa O'Neil Perdue, WSU Tri-Cities Marketing and Communications Manager, 509-372-7319, cell/text 509-727-3094, moneil@tricity.wsu.edu

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