Board of Public Building Bond funds have been the only state appropriated capital improvements funding to St. Charles Community College over the last decade.
St. Charles Community College

St. Charles Community College (SCC) is located in Cottleville and serves four counties. St. Charles, St. Peters, O’Fallon, Wentzville, and Lake St. Louis are all part of the SCC service area. Approximately 6,800 students attend the college.

Capital Improvement & Facilities History

For the past three decades, SCC’s only state capital improvements funding came from the 2016 Board of Public Buildings bond issuance. The college received $2.3 million to address deferred maintenance. The funds were used to replace a parking lot and chiller and cooling tower as well as upgrade accessibility doors, boilers, kitchen equipment, and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment.

Facility Challenges

SCC consists of 12 Educational & General Buildings and two Auxiliary services buildings with a total of approximately 650,000 gross square feet (GSF) in maintainable property. None of the buildings on the main campus have had major renovations or upgrades since being built in 1990 through 2005.

Currently, the college has over $25 million in facility repair, maintenance and renovation needs, including over $2 million in deferred maintenance. A significant portion of the deferred maintenance is in HVAC, carpeting, classroom furniture, classroom technology, science labs and electrical upgrades in all buildings constructed from 1990 through 1998.
Capital Priorities

St. Charles Community College has identified the following as the college’s top two priorities for the future. The total state request for these projects is approximately $41 million.

1. Workforce Development Center

SCC does not have dedicated, purpose-built facilities for workforce training. The college relies on lease arrangements with private businesses for use of industrial space in their buildings. These arrangements are inadequate to provide the quality, access, and variety of training required by area employers. Workforce training is a priority for the state of Missouri, and this project represents a tremendous growth opportunity in St. Charles County, Lincoln County, Warren County, and other counties in the SCC service area. The focus at SCC for many years has been on traditional general education and transfer studies, which have served the community well. The future success of the region and the state requires a balanced approach between general education and career/technical programs. SCC lacks the facilities to quickly respond to industry needs for workforce training.

The new workforce development center will provide a state-of-the-art training experience that will greatly benefit and enrich the community, the region, and the state. The center will be approximately 20,000 square feet of industrial space that will be used for many types of workforce training, and will be designed in such a way as to allow adaptation to meet changing workforce needs in the SCC service area. The center will accommodate training in welding, manufacturing, robotics, logistics, information technology, and other high-demand skill areas.
2. Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM) Building

This project will directly increase the number of STEM graduates from SCC. The current science lecture and lab spaces have not increased significantly since 1992, while student enrollment has more than tripled. Enrollment, especially in biology, chemistry, and physics, is often constrained by building capacity. This can result in student academic progress delays, changes in student academic goals, or unserved students. Science courses that serve as prerequisites for degrees and advanced training in health care and high-tech fields reach capacity and close within days of registration opening.

The demand from business and industry for training and re-training in STEM fields has continued to increase. STEM-related job opportunities are plentiful in the SCC service area. Unfortunately, the college’s limited facility capacity makes it difficult to educate sufficient numbers of students with the requisite skills to fill these jobs. Additional science, engineering, and mathematics labs and classrooms will greatly improve the college’s service to the community.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Building will allow for expansion of these programs into a modern, multi-story building with state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, and technology. The building, to be located on SCC’s main campus, will be approximately 77,000 square feet equipped and furnished for classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices. Building design and materials will include recycled materials and will prioritize energy efficiency; SCC anticipates that design elements will follow LEED principles. These measures demonstrate the college’s ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and cost-efficiency.

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Click here for Google view.