

University of Washington, Tacoma - History and Timeline

The University of Washington, Tacoma was founded in 1990 when the state of Washington invested in five new two-year, upper-division and master's level campuses (UW Tacoma and UW Bothell, as well as three new WSU campuses, in Vancouver, Ti-Cities and Spokane). The campuses were designed to provide the next academic step for community college transfer students and to serve time bound, place bound students with degree programs meeting demonstrated regional needs. They were also intended to fuel local economic development and be responsive to the communities in which they were sited.

As its mission, the UW Tacoma educates diverse learners and transforms communities by expanding the boundaries of knowledge and discovery. UWT has an academically impressive faculty of 140 full-time and part-time professors who bring an interdisciplinary and innovative approach to teaching and scholarship. The campus is committed to engaging its community in mutually beneficial partnerships.

LJW Tacoma is set in downtown Tacoma's Union Station neighborhood, a district of historic warehouses built in the late 1800s and early 1900s at the western terminus of the great transcontinental railroad. The eventual footprint of the campus will be 46 acres. So far, about 70 percent of the property in this area has been acquired by the University. Construction of the campus is proceeding in phases, with commitment to renovating historic buildings wherever possible. Retail space has been incorporated into construction and is planned for future development with the intention of encouraging strong connections between campus and community and of leveraging capital investment so that it serves both academic and economic development purposes. Campus architecture has won national architectural and historic preservation honors.

A founding faculty of 13, most of whom are still with UWT, laid the intellectual foundations of the campus, adopting an interdisciplinary curriculum, an innovative approach to teaching, and a commitment to having faculty research serve the community. The inaugural program at UWT was Liberal Studies (now Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences). The decade beginning in 1990 and ending in 1999 saw the addition of baccalaureate and in most cases also master's programs in nursing, education, business, social work, environmental science and computing. A post-baccalaureate teacher certification program was added in 1994, and a principal's certification program (typically done in conjunction with the M.Ed.) in 2001. The campus opened with an enrollment of about 175 and graduated its first class, of four, in 1991. UWT now enrolls over 2,000 students and in 2004 graduated more than 700.

UWT's strong political, civic and philanthropic support from every part of its community has never wavered. Community supporters knew from the beginning that private investment would be needed to provide a margin of excellence beyond what state dollars alone could provide, so they raised \$1 million as UWT's Founders Endowment. Public-private partnerships have continued throughout UWT's history with notable recent contributions. In 2002, a \$500,000 gift provided seed money for the Key Bank Professional Development Center, which offers continuing and executive education outside of degree programs.

In 2000, Governor Gary Locke, responding to the demand in Washington's high-tech industry for a greater supply of state-educated computing professionals prepared at the baccalaureate and master's level, proposed that Washington launch an Institute of Technology on the two-plus-two model and site it at UW Tacoma. The Institute, an expansion of the UWT computing and software systems program that opened in 1999, is intended to bring high-tech prosperity to more parts of the state. A fundamental component of its mission is to increase the number of women and people of color entering the field of computing, so vigorous outreach programs for younger students are built into the Institute. The Institute partners with 15 community and technical colleges, collaborating closely on advising and admissions and fostering faculty ties between Institute faculty and the community college instructors who prepare students for admission to the Institute as juniors.

UWT's vigorous philanthropic support played a key role in the beginnings of the Institute: it was supported by the Legislature as a public-private partnership. To date, investment from local government, foundations, corporations, families and individuals amounts to over \$5 million. The goal is to reach \$7 million in non-state support.

In 2003, UWT received a truly transformational gift: \$15 million for the Milgard School of Business. This gift endows a Center for Information-Based Management and a Center for Corporate Ethics and Social Responsibility, including four faculty positions. It also endows a \$3 million scholarship program, as well as

endowing the School's leadership position. The gift is lifting the Milgard School of Business, which received significant praise in its most recent AACSB accreditation report, to the next level of stature and accomplishment.

The following timeline provides a quick overview of significant goals and development on the UWT campus.

- 1987 • Needs study conducted by UW
- 1988 • HECB approval of UW proposal
- 1989 • UWT created/funded by state Legislature
- 1990 • UWT opens with Liberal Studies program (B.A.)
- 1991 • First UWT graduation (four graduates)
- 1992 • Nursing program (B.S.N.) opens
 - Education (M.Ed.) opens
- 1993 • Business Administration program (B.A.B.A.) opens
- 1994 • Teacher Certification added
- 1996 • Master of Nursing degree (M.N.) added
- 1997 • Permanent campus opens
- 1998 • Master of Social Work program opens
 - Curriculum for Nonprofit Studies launched
 - Donors fund Next Step Scholars Endowment
- 1999 • Computing and Software Systems (B.S.) opens
- 2000 • Dougan Addition opens
 - M.B.A. and M.A. degrees added
- 2001 • Institute of Technology at UWT launched
 - Urban Studies (B.A.) opens
 - B.S. degree in environmental science added
 - Educational Administrator certification added
- 2002 • Science and Keystone buildings open
 - M.S. (in CSS), B.A. in social welfare added
- 2003 • Pinkerton Building opens as Institute headquarters
 - KeyBank Professional Development Center opens
 - \$15 million Milgard gift names School of Business
 - Regents approve master plan with housing/parking
- 2004 • Cherry Parkes, Mattress Factory open