**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Agricultural Animal Health Research Facility**

**(College of Veterinary Medicine)**

**2013 – 15 request: $3,155,000 Project Type: Program (Research)**

 **Project Phase: Design**

**Institutional Priority: #9 Gross Square Ft: 42,648**

**WSU requests $3,155,000 in design funds for the Agricultural Animal Health Research Facility.** In response to growing public awareness and concern, the College of Veterinary Medicine has over the past decade expanded its federal and state programs related to disease surveillance, global animal health, food safety, and emerging diseases that are vital to maintaining public health, animal health, and global agricultural markets. Expansion of programs and increased responsibilities to agriculture animal stakeholders (a $1.5 billion industry in Washington State) and the public have exceeded the scope and design of existing facilities for agricultural animals to support this infectious disease research.

The proposed facility will be designed to house up to 24 adult cattle and 45 younger animals, and will include an insectary for propagating the invertebrate vectors of viral, bacterial and parasitic diseases such as West Nile Virus (transmitted by mosquitoes) and anaplasmosis (transmitted by ticks) at BSL2 (bio-safety level2) containment. There are no facilities available in Washington for this type of research. Research programs in infectious diseases of livestock, including vaccine development, are supported by both federal grants and state programs, such as the Agricultural Research Center, the Safe Food Initiative, and the Unified Ag Initiative. Collectively, the College of Veterinary Medicine’s infectious disease research programs brought in $7.4M in research funding in FY11 (not including the major donations of $51M from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation).

These programs are a vital component of units in the college, including the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and the USDA-ARS Animal Disease Research Unit. Livestock research in these academic units falls under the umbrella of the Animal Health Research Center, primarily located in WSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, with collaborators in the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. Through the Allen School for Global Animal Health, a unique program among North American institutions of higher education, external partners also include the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Biomedical, The Infectious Disease Research Institute, PATH and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the Global Health Alliance and the Washington Vaccine Alliance.

Although the project is in the “research” category, it also supports undergraduate, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), and graduate (MS and PhD) education. These degree programs are focused on health issues of both animals and people, and contribute significantly to enhanced STEM education at WSU.

The new proposed facility is strongly supported by state and regional stakeholders. It explicitly addresses the College of Veterinary Medicine’s and University’s strategic priorities, and particularly addresses two primary strategic Priorities of Government - “Improving the Health of Washingtonians” and “Improving the Economic Vitality of Businesses and Individuals”. Research programs to be located in this building will contribute to Washington’s pre-eminence in Global Health, a $4.1 billion segment of the state economy.