Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC)
Annual Allocation Request

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON TACOMA

ALLOCATION REQUEST DATE INFORMATION

Date Created: `2025-02-04 13:34:04` Date Due: `2025-02-07 12:00:00` Date Submitted: `2025-02-04 13:40:58`

ALLOCATION REQUEST TITLE/DESCRIPTION

Request Title: `2025 ONGOING Makerspace Student Staff`

Request Description: `A request to continue to fund student employment in the UW Tacoma Library Makerspace`

ALLOCATION REQUEST INFORMATION

Department Name: `Library` Request Code: `25A0479`

Contact Names: `Tim Bostelle` UW Tacoma Affiliation: `Staff`

UWT Email Address: `tbostell@uw.edu` Phone Number: `2-4650`

Title of Request: `ONGOING Makerspace Student Staff` Type of Request: `Continuous / Ongoing`

Department Head Approval: ✔ Department Head: `Megan Gregory`

Annual Request Information

1. Background: Review and discuss the context of the proposed technology in detail. Explain how this proposal will be used in conjunction with an original proposal or existing technology. If applicable, how is the current technology disabled or inadequate?

Last year the STF Committee funded makerspace student employment.

These student employees have been hard at work over the last year helping to design makerspace projects, safety protocols, teach classes, and learn how to operate the equipment safely and efficiently.

The Makerspace staff implemented a check in system for students in December 2023 and in 2024, the Makerspace served at least 341 students. This year, the Makerspace has served over 741 students and have added multiple, weekly classes to our offerings with things like:

Fiber Friends
Sewing Classes
Clothing Repair
Sticker Making
Intro to Arduino

We are asking the STFC to fund 40 hours per week of student employment. These employees would provide coverage from 9am to 5pm on Mondays through Fridays and would have the following duties:

Training: Student employees provide "just-in-time" training for their fellow students in the makerspace on makerspace equipment and safety.

Workshops: Students lead quarterly, project-based, workshops.

Safety: Ensure that the space is safe for students and staff. Help develop and review safety policies.

Control access to equipment: limit access to the equipment to authorized students only

Maintenance of equipment: all maker technology requires periodic maintenance

Trouble-shooting: basic and advanced tech support for students using the makerspace.

Check out tools: check out tools from the tool library for use by the UWT community.

2. Benefit to Students: Discuss how students have (for returning applicants) or will (for new applicants) benefit from this technology. How will additional funding of the technology benefit students?

The makerspace is a peer-to-peer learning environment whose mission is to increase access to technology and new resources for students. The Makerspace's core mission is increasing access to expensive and otherwise difficult to maintain/obtain equipment so that all students from all backgrounds can have a chance to create projects and coursework. The space is intentionally designed and staff are trained to create a welcoming space, thus lowering the barriers to access both in terms of providing equipment and in terms of the traditional "teacher-student" role. The student employees that you hire are the teachers but they are also the learners: creating a reciprocal teaching and learning environment for all users.

These student employees directly benefit from the training they receive and the projects that they work on, learning how to write safety protocols, training materials, and how to create projects in the makerspace for all levels of users.

More broadly, the entire student body benefits from staff support and workshops to educate users on how to use the machines available. Any student who wants to learn how to sew, how to use a laser cutter, how to create 3D object, will be able to attend one of these workshops or simply drop by the Makerspace and pick up a new skill or complete a project for their school work.

We also know that play and Makerspace, wholly apart from pedagogical benefits also benefit student retention and success, can lead to unexpected career changes, and benefits neurodivergent students on campus

https://www.library.upenn.edu/blog/taking-play-seriously-penn-libraries

https://www.chronicle.com/article/learning-the-unspoken-rules

We also know that Makerspaces which have been designed to intentionally embrace certain ideologies can be powerful spaces for diversity, equity, and inclusion. This is what sets the Library Makerspace apart from other Makerspaces on campus. I'm happy to explain how the Library Makerspace fulfills all of the conclusions in the below paper.

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jee.20546

3. Access: Describe who will be using or will have access to the resources being proposed. In addition, all previous requestors, please provide historic data highlighting the usage and accessibility of technology. All new requestors, please provide user need data.

All UW Tacoma students will have access to the Makerspace and the proposed student staff member during regularly scheduled workshops and office hours.

4. Timeline: Provide a timeline showing how the proposed technology can be completed during the requested period. Describe when you would like to see this proposal initiated and completed, and why.

These students will need to be hired immediately upon securing funding. This summer, the students will begin working with the Head of Library IT to develop their skills in the Makerspace and set a schedule for Workshops and training. In fall, when class returns the students will begin offering workshops and training to other students.

5. Resources/Budget: Discuss available financial, personnel and space resources devoted to the proposed technology and level of support. Proposal must detail all the items/resources requested to be purchased. This includes filling out the Item Detail in next section.

The Library provides a head of Library IT and a Sr. Computer Specialist at the cost of 2 FTE permanent staff. The Library also funds student employment to the tune of 39.5 hours of desk time per week. The Head of Library IT and Sr. Computer Specialist both oversee the work of the Library IT student employees and provide training and supervision for the STFC funded student employees in the Makerspace.

The campus also invested a great deal of money renovating the Snoqualmie Building, creating an IT service counter and a Makerspace. The Library invests money in purchasing certain supplies for these spaces and training materials for students (for example, fabric so student employees can learn how to make a pillow case). Campus is also investing money in safety and other infrastructure needs for the Makerspace.

The library is asking for 1,800 hours of student employment for the Makerspace for next year.

Funding Request Items

Item	QTY	Cost Per Item	Shipping Fee	Tax Per Item	Subtotal
Hourly Wage	1800	$18.87	$0.00	$0.00	$33,966.00
Benefits load (22%)	1800	$4.15	$0.00	$0.00	$7,470.00
				OVERALL TOTAL:	$41,436.00