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**County Council & Executive Urge
Legislature to Approve Everett Campus Site**

Looking to send a strong positive message to the state legislature, the Snohomish County Council and Executive approved a joint resolution Wednesday in support of the Pacific Station site in Everett as the home of the new University of Washington, North Campus.

The council voted 4-1 to approve the measure. Executive Aaron Reardon has said he, too, will sign the resolution.

Councilman Brian Sullivan, who introduced the measure, said Wednesday the purpose of the resolution is to show united support for a university branch in Snohomish County.

“If the goal is to start having students in classrooms by the fall of 2008, then we need to move forward quickly on a siting decision,” Sullivan said. “Time is also of the essence as the state legislature has convened this week and will be moving forward on the UW North issue in the Higher Education committees.”

The resolution acknowledges that in-depth studies called for by Governor Chris Gregoire selected the Pacific Station site in Everett as the No. 1 recommended location to best serve students in the region, with the Smokey Point – Marysville site listed second.

“The need for a four-year college focused on math and science in Snohomish County is clear,” Reardon said. “This sends a strong message to our legislative delegation that it’s time to come together and secure the funding needed to help Snohomish County’s students meet the challenges of the global economy.”

Population data shows that more than 70 percent of the students who will use a UW campus will be living in Everett and south Snohomish County. The NBBJ study, which lawmakers will use to guide university decisions, suggests that an Everett location most easily accommodates students traveling within a 30-minute radius.

“The Everett area also provides an estimated 50 percent of the industries most ready to participate in ‘experiential learning,’ academic-industry internships,” said Council Chairman Dave Somers. “You’re looking at Boeing and others who are ready to support this location for a four-year university.”

“With the lowest cost of all the sites, along with the adjacent multi-modal transportation center, and numerous food and recreation amenities nearby, the Everett site is best suited for a new university,” said Councilman Mike Cooper.

Should the Everett site somehow no longer be feasible, the Council and Executive are asking legislators to consider the Marysville site.

Councilmember John Koster, Arlington, voted against the resolution, saying: “I strongly support a four-year university for Snohomish County, but the legislature’s original intent was to site the new college to serve students from Island, Skagit and Snohomish counties.”

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