

GRCC Davenport Campus Acquisition | Questions & Answers
April 20, 2009

1. *Q: Why is the timing right for this move?*

A: In the past two years, the college, our community and even our nation have all gone through significant changes that point to the critical importance of accessible higher education. In their wisdom back in 1991, the Grand Rapids Community College Board of Trustees set aside .4 mills property tax allocation as part of the master planning in anticipation of needed growth at some point in GRCC's future.

GRCC is turning away 1,000 students a year. The acquisition of the downtown Davenport campus -- located just two blocks from the eastern edge of our current campus-- is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that provides immediate solution to our downtown capacity issues. The additional classrooms and other academic facilities will allow us to meet critical community needs expressed through another record high enrollment for Summer and Fall.

2. *Q: How soon will the move take place and what will move?*

A: The transition is anticipated to begin this summer 2009. Davenport will continue to have classes/presence on the campus over the next year. GRCC administration and faculty leadership are very pleased with the plans for the acquisition and have been working together since the early stages to plan for the move. These people are still weighing which programs would be best-suited to the new space as well as remaining space at the downtown campus.

3. *Q: Will this affect the college's regional strategy?*

A: The college will continue to develop and pursue serving the needs of the entire Kent Intermediate School District through a strategic regional approach.

4. *Q: Will you raise tuition to offset the costs?*

A: The acquisition of the Davenport Campus will be financed through the sale of bonds and with funds raised from private donors.

Acquiring the Davenport campus and GRCC's Tuition Plan are two entirely separate issues. The ongoing strategy around any tuition increase would be directly related to the services we offer.

5. ***Q: Will the college go out for another millage?***

A: Not in the near future. As stated during the millage campaigns, the college's finances are sound. Since the millage failures, the college has sought to meet the increased demand for its services while still working within the constraints of its budget (by increasing fundraising and forming partnerships). This acquisition provides an economically viable way to increase capacity in a more efficient way over the long term than building new facilities.

6. ***Q: Will this require additional staff?***

A: Yes, the acquisition will be a positive for our local economy as well. The college will be looking at the possible addition of more custodial, grounds and skilled trades employees, as well as adjunct faculty.

7. ***Q: How will transportation and parking be handled?***

A: The college is planning on developing a shuttle service between campuses. The possible addition of the new Silver Line by The Rapid would also increase transportation options for GRCC students, which is one of the reasons the Board of Trustees endorses the upcoming Rapid millage request. In addition, the Davenport campus gives GRCC access to 540 new parking spaces.

8. ***Q: What will happen with the historic homes on the Davenport property?***

A: The college will study the use of these historic homes and explore the possibilities. We plan to be good neighbors and work closely with the Heritage Hill Board.

9. ***Q: What happens to the plans to ask the state to help fund a new Health & Education building for GRCC?***

A: The acquisition of the Davenport Campus and plans to renovate the rest of Cook Hall is a more cost-effective approach to serving the community's needs than the earlier plans of a new academic building. The previous plan (new Health & Education facility) would have cost \$35.1 million and provided roughly 139,000 square feet of classroom and office space. The Davenport campus gives us 152,000 square feet at a much lower cost. Renovations for Cook Hall are estimated at \$10 million of which, 50% could be funded by the state as submitted in the Capital Appropriations request earlier this year.

10. ***Q: What about signage commemorating the contributions of Davenport patrons?***

A: Davenport University leaders will determine what moves over to their new campus. Once GRCC acquires the campus, a strategy for investing in GRCC along with naming opportunities will be identified.

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