1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Celebrating its 125th year of operation, Eastern Washington University is a regional, comprehensive public university located in Cheney, Washington, with programs also offered in Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Seattle, Shoreline, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver and Yakima. Eastern is a driving force for the culture, economy and vitality of the Inland Northwest region. The university’s beautiful campus, opportunities for hands-on, real-world learning, and NCAA Division I athletics provide a classic, yet unique college experience.

Eastern’s campus is just seventeen miles from Washington’s second largest city, Spokane. It is also only minutes away from more than twenty lakes, mountains and the Turnbull National Wildlife refuge, all of which offer fishing, hiking, biking, boating, wildlife watching and other recreational activities. This unique geographic positioning allows students the serenity to focus on their studies, the spirit of a small college town, the recreational opportunities of the Northwest and the invaluable internship opportunities and civic involvement offered by a major metropolitan area.

Eastern is now the state’s fastest growing public institution, yet maintains a 20:1 student-faculty ratio. This momentum is visible in the structural changes around campus, including a renovated Woodward Stadium and the construction of three new facilities: Washington State Digital Archives, Washington State Patrol Regional Crime Laboratory and the School of Computing and Engineering Sciences.

Martin / Williamson Hall is located within the north portion, and academic core of the university, directly adjacent to the historic district and on the main pedestrian route from Cheney into the campus. The surrounding high-quality landscape contributes significantly to the overall character and identity of the campus. Mature trees in irregular groupings, large lawn spaces and detailed, historic buildings are the major features that imbue this area with its strong, positive collegiate identity.

The Master Plan for Eastern emphasizes the importance of the restoration and renovation of existing instructional facilities on campus, and Martin / Williamson is one of the campus’s top renovation priorities. Martin / Williamson Hall is currently home to the Department of
Education, Department of Counseling, and the Department of Psychology, three growing departments at the University. By renovating Martin / Williamson, EWU will be able to strengthen the classic collegiate character of the academic core while also preserving a state asset.

**Martin / Williamson Hall**

The Martin / Williamson facility is one of Eastern’s largest academic buildings, with over 89,000 gross square feet, an instructional seating capacity of 1,280 seats, and the laboratory seating capacity of 172. With an important location on the main quad, Martin/Williamson Hall also provides a strong façade for the pedestrian “mall” that connects the heart of campus. South of Martin Hall, and physically linked to it is Reid Elementary School. The JFK Library lies to the west, with Huston Hall to the north across the pedestrian “mall.”

Named for the Eastern graduate and then Governor of Washington State, Clarence D. Martin, Martin Hall opened in 1937. It was originally named the “Training School Building” as an auxiliary structure for the Washington State Normal School. Martin Hall was designed to include classroom space, a gymnasium, auditorium, library, and cafeteria. Williamson Hall, constructed in 1966, consists of general classroom space and faculty offices for the Department of Education. It is named after Dr. Obed J. Williamson, who arrived at Eastern in 1932 as the head of the education department. Martin Hall and Williamson Hall are joined at the current entrance lobby for Williamson, and are used as a single facility.

Martin hall underwent expansion in 1963 with the addition of a multi-purpose room and removal of the two-story gymnasium for additional classroom space on the second floor. In 1978 it underwent a parapet reconstruction along a majority of its facades. Two years later the interior was completely remodeled for the creation of faculty offices, instructional rooms and laboratory space. No major renovation work has been completed on Williamson since its construction over forty years ago.

Martin / Williamson currently houses the dean’s office for the College of Education and Human Development; faculty offices, instructional and laboratory space for the Departments of Counseling, Educational and Developmental Psychology; Education; Psychology; and Counseling and Psychological Services.
Key goals of the renovation to Martin / Williamson

- Create a unified, technologically up-to-date facility
- Provide a commons gathering space and identity to the facility
- Encourage a collaborative environment that brings together departments and faculty
- Create study and lounge spaces for informal student learning
- Replace outmoded space designs created specifically for teaching pedagogy no longer in use.
- Design flexible laboratory and classroom spaces to serve the university for years to come

A Programmatic View of the Problem

Outdated Lab in Martin Hall
Corridor Bottleneck
Outdated Lab Equipment

Underused open offices with no daylighting
Classroom in Martin Hall with no natural light
Martin / Williamson is rapidly emerging as an obstacle for all departments housed within the facility, inhibiting effective quality program instruction and administration. Changing enrollments, variable section sizes and the need to respond to the changing needs of our future student population have made the renovation of Martin / Williamson a high level priority in the University’s Master Plan, revised in early 2005. The current spaces within the facility do not lend themselves to either the flexibility or capacity that Eastern needs for implementation of the master plan. In addition, major infrastructure systems are out-of-date and in urgent need of upgrade. This upgrade will transform an antiquated facility into a modern 21st century LEED Silver building.

The renovation of Martin / Williamson includes both interior and exterior work. The emphasis of the program will be to create quality and flexible instructional, administrative support and student gathering spaces. Increasing capacity, reducing operational costs and responding to technology shifts will bring the facility in line with Eastern’s strategic planning initiatives. The total renovation of building systems will address costly deferred maintenance issues, substantially preserve the life of a valuable asset, and address critical life safety issues such as fire detection and suppression, indoor air quality and ADA upgrades.

The renovation of Martin Hall in 1980 created a number of highly specialized laboratory and clinical research spaces. These spaces were tailored to a teaching pedagogy that has since changed and therefore have become unusable with relation to modern teaching practices. Many of these spaces used one way glass and simple audio systems for observation teaching programs in education and psychology. New video and audio technology has made these existing spaces obsolete and ill suited for modern teaching techniques. These laboratory spaces which serve as an integral component in the education of both undergraduates and graduates are also undersized, poorly equipped and lacking in the necessary technologies to perform crucial learning experiments. The corridors are extremely dark and have little connection to the campus at large, creating confusing bottlenecks and dead ends. Overall, the combined buildings have undergone many additions and renovations over the years, creating a labyrinth of snaking corridors and hidden rooms. Additionally, no space exists for informal student/faculty and interdepartmental interactions.

Williamson Hall has not been renovated since its construction in 1966 and needs significant upgrades to the systems to make the building perform more efficiently. Williamson is laid out around a central corridor with classrooms to both sides and offices for the Department of Education on the third floor. A key component to the renovation of Williamson will be to upgrade the technologies within the classrooms and provide more flexible classroom configurations.
A Rationale for the Proposed Solution

The primary goal of the renovation of Martin / Williamson will be to integrate the different departments that are currently housed within the facility into a collaborative teaching and learning facility that takes advantage of the interdependent and synergistic nature of the education and psychology departments housed there. Faculty and staff have voiced their desire to create a building that will allow for both physical interaction and pedagogical synthesis to occur between all departments.

Strategies for Renovation

- Clarify internal & external circulation:
  - Disconnect Martin Hall from Reid Elementary to provide pedestrian access into campus.
  - Activate corridors with break-out spaces for group work and meetings.
- Re-define and enlarge entrance lobby:
  - Provide a stronger presence for Martin / Williamson on the main quad.
- Create a core Commons space:
  - Connect the separate wings of Martin and provide a visible link between floors.
  - Allow for student, faculty and staff interactions and study.
- Improve vertical connections:
  - Incorporate more elevators throughout facility
  - Improve accessibility with internal ramps
- Organize spaces by uses and relationships:
  - Concentrate instructional space on the ground floor
  - Locate department suites together to encourage connectivity
- Relocate and expand Counseling and Psychological Services to better serve growing student population
- Eliminate outdated laboratory spaces and equipment
- Replace existing technologies with up-to-date technologies and flexible instructional spaces