UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON TACOMA

Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC)
Annual Allocation Request

Allocation Request Date Information

Date Created:	2026-01-05 15:41:28	Date Due:	2026-01-09 11:59:00	Date Submitted:	2026-01-06 09:54:04

Allocation Request Title/Description

Request Title:	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:	UW Tacoma Library	Request Code:	26A0531
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: Kaijsa Calkins

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 in the amount of $51,359.00. This was an increase in the amount that we asked for ($41,436.00) and was awarded in order to cover for the fact that the Makerspace was asked to takeover all STFC funded 3D printing on campus.

This amount allows the Makerspace to have three shifts a day, giving us overlap at the critical period of 11am-3pm, which allows our staff to also hold events in the mid-day which increases the number of reservations we can have and the number of students we can serve.

This has been an incredible success.

If we compare stats for Fall Quarter 2024 to Fall Quarter 2025 the number of students checking in to the Makerspace went from 210 in 2024 to 575 in 2025. That is a 174% increase in users. And to give that even more context: the total number of users in 2024 was 741. We have almost hit that number in one quarter.

If that number seems low to you, one thing you should remember is that a number of services, like 3D printing, can only have 1-2 users per day. And 3D printing has seen the biggest increase of any of our services: the number of bookings (students need to reserve the 3D printers to use them) went from 56 in Fall 2024 to 200 in Fall 2025! That's a 257% increase. And the number of booked hours has increased from 180 total hours in Fall 2024 to 656 total hours in Fall 2025. That's a 264% increase in usage. Our 3D printers are extremely popular.

All of the other services have also increased in popularity: Poster/Sticker making is up 105%, sewing machine usage is also up 117%.

These student employees you pay for don't just help users with equipment. They 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.

Some of the classes that they have offered are:

Fiber Friends
Sewing Classes
Clothing Repair
Sticker Making
Bracelet making
and minifigure painting

We are asking the STFC to continue to fund 60 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 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.

Students will be the only people allowed to use STFC funded equipment and supplies. Student employees provide some assistance to faculty, staff, and even the public but it is minimal. The vast majority of our users are UW Tacoma Students.

Usage data Fall Quarter 2025

- the number of students checking into the Makerspace went from 210 in 2024 to 575 in 2025. That is a 174% increase in users.
- 3D printing has seen the biggest increase of any of our services: the number of bookings (students need to reserve the 3D printers to use them) went from 56 in Fall 2024 to 200 in Fall 2025! That's a 257% increase.
    - And the number of booked hours has increased from 180 total hours in Fall 2024 to 656 total hours in Fall 2025.
    - That's a 264% increase in usage.
- Poster/Sticker making is up 105% over the previous year
- Sewing machine usage is also up 117%.

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.

Students are hired throughout the year. We would start using the budget in Summer 2026 immediately upon funding.

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 Makerspace and a Sr. Computer Specialist at the cost of 2 FTE permanent staff. The Head of Library IT oversees all IT duties for the Library while also providing training and support for the Makerspace. The Library also funds IT 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 Tioga Library Building, creating a consolidated 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 2,640 hours of student employment for the Makerspace for next year. This is 44 weeks of employment at 60 hours a week. Students do not work interims or breaks.

$19.22 per hour + 20% benefit load ($3.84) = total per hour of $23.06. * 2640 = $60,887.27

$19.22 per hour +15.2% benefit load ($2.92) = total per hour of $22.14 * 2640 = $58,449.60

Funding Request Items

Item	QTY	Cost Per Item	Shipping Fee	Tax Per Item	Subtotal
Student employment	2640	$19.22	$0.00	$0.00	**$50,740.80**
Benefit load for students (scenario 1 @20%)	2640	$3.84	$0.00	$0.00	**$10,137.60**
Benefit load for student employees (scenario 2 @ 15.2%)	2640	$2.92	$0.00	$0.00	**$7,708.80**
				OVERALL TOTAL:	**$68,587.20**