

**PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
**Board of Trustees Agenda Report**  
**For the Trustee Meeting Date of May 11, 2010**

ITEM # 21

**ITEM TITLE:**

Consider Approval to Accept Department of Energy (DOE) Donation of Equipment for Merritt College Genomics Program

**SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approval is requested to accept a donation of DNA sequencer equipment from the Department of Energy (DOE) to be used for the Merritt College Genomics Program.

**ITEM SUMMARY:**

The donated equipment will support the basic Genomics Program infrastructure. The total estimated fixed asset value of the donated equipment after depreciation from the original price is \$2,407,000. Board authorization to accept the donation is requested in accordance with Board Policy 6.35, which requires Board approval of donations with a fair market value exceeding \$50,000.

The equipment is currently located in storage containers on the Merritt campus. When the improvements to the 860 Atlantic Avenue are complete, these items will be moved to that facility. The 860 Atlantic Avenue facility will provide temporary housing for the Genomics Program until the new Merritt Allied Health Building is constructed. The equipment will then be moved to its permanent location in the new Allied Health Sciences Building.

The Department of General Services performed a review of the total cost of ownership of the donated equipment. The review indicates that the District will not be required to replace these items. The cost of ownership involved is minimal, because the equipment will not be run consistently and will be used for demonstration purposes only.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The Merritt Genomics Program will provide training for high tech careers and is slated to be self-sustaining through partnerships with educational and business industry partners such as San Francisco State University and Genentech. Genomics is one of the fastest growing areas of Biotechnology, surpassing the computer industry. Not only will students be readied for Biotech workforce jobs and careers here in the Greater Bay Area, but this program will also provide a vehicle for student-based original research that will positively impact the health of our local and global community. Further information is included in the attached letter from Dr. Rebecca Kenney and Dr. Henry Fabian.

**ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS:**

Not applicable.

**EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approval to accept a donation of DNA sequencer equipment from the Department of Energy (DOE) to be used for the Merritt College Genomics Program is recommended.

**SOURCE OF FUNDS (AND FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT):**

The source of funding for moving and storage is college discretionary funds.

**OTHER DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THIS ACTION (E.G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY):**

Yes  No

**COMMENTS:**

All Board recommended contracts are subject to negotiation and execution by the Chancellor.

**WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THIS ITEM AT THE BOARD MEETING?**

Vice Chancellor Ikharo and President Adams

**DID A BOARD STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ITEM? Yes  No**

**IF "YES", PLEASE INCLUDE THAT INFORMATION IN YOUR SUMMARY.**

**PLEASE ACQUIRE SIGNATURES IN THIS ORDER:**

**DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:**

Prepared by: Sadiq B. Ikharmo Date: 5/4/10  
Dr. Sadiq B. Ikharo  
Vice Chancellor of General Services

**DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY:**

Sadiq B. Ikharmo Date: 5/4/10  
Dr. Sadiq B. Ikharo  
Vice Chancellor of General Services

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Robert Adams  
President, Merritt College Robert A. Adams

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT REVIEW**

Finance review required  Finance review not required

If Finance review is required, determination is:  Approved  Not Approved

If not approved, please give reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: A. Jell Date: 5/5/10  
For Finance and Administration

**GENERAL COUNSEL (Legality and Format/adherence to Education Codes):**

<sup>TR</sup>  
 Legal review required  Legal review not required

If Legal review is required, determination is:  Approved  Not Approved

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thuy T. Nguyen, General Counsel

**CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE APPROVAL**

Approved, and Place on Agenda  Not Approved, but Place on Agenda

Signature: Elihu Harris Date: 5/4/10  
Elihu Harris, Chancellor



# Merritt College

12500 Campus Drive · Oakland, California 94619 · (510) 531-4911 · FAX (510) 436-2514

---

April 29, 2010

Dear Dr. Ikharo,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. The following is to respond to your questions regarding the donations made to the Genomics Program and to provide insight and supporting information and documentation to best inform our Board of Trustees members regarding the Genomics Program, Program site and facility needs and usage, scientific equipment, and procurement of donations.

1. *A description of the item, including brand name, model number and serial number, if applicable*
2. *The fixed asset value of the item*
3. *Name and address of donor*
4. *Identify the cost of ownership*
5. *Energy required to operate*
6. *Annual maintenance costs*
7. *Cost to replace with similar equipment in the future*
8. *What program will the item support?*
9. *Where will the equipment be located?*
10. *Is that program in line with the master plan of the college?*
11. *Source of funding for storage, move coordination, shipping, installation, etc.*

I wish to address the questions you had for us at this time:

**There are nine types of instrumentation as listed below:**

- 1). **ITEM:** 29 MegaBACE DNA Sequencers made by Amersham; Serial No. for five are 17037, 17042, 17051, 17063, 17097; the rest are most likely between 17000 and 17100.
  - *FIXED ASSET VALUE: \$25-75k*
  - *SOURCE: United States Department of Energy (DOE).*
- 2). **ITEM:** 3 ABI 3730XL DNA Sequencers made by ABI. No further information available.
  - *FIXED ASSET VALUE: \$100k each*
  - *SOURCE: United States Department of Energy (DOE).*
- 3). **ITEM:** 1 ABI 377 DNA sequencer made by ABI. No further information available.
  - *FIXED ASSET VALUE: \$0k*
  - *SOURCE: United States Department of Energy (DOE).*
- 4). **ITEM:** 1 Omnigridd Microarrayer. No further information available.
  - *FIXED ASSET VALUE: \$25k*
  - *SOURCE: United States Department of Energy (DOE).*

5). ITEM: 2 Genetix Q-pix colony pickers made by Genetix LTD London. No further information available.

- *FIXED ASSET VALUE:* \$100k each
- *SOURCE:* United States Department of Energy (DOE).

6). ITEM: 2 CyBio Vario stackers and robotic bar-coding systems made by CyBio. Serial No. for one is 0005924. No further information available.

- *FIXED ASSET VALUE:* \$25k each
- *SOURCE:* United States Department of Energy (DOE).

7). ITEM: 6 GeneAmp PCR system 9600 made by Perkin Elmer. Serial No. for three are P3638, P4651, P5455. No further information available.

- *FIXED ASSET VALUE:* \$0k each
- *SOURCE:* United States Department of Energy (DOE).

8). ITEM: 1 MJ PTC-225 Tetrad PCR machine made by MJ. Serial No. TD002699.

- *FIXED ASSET VALUE:* \$1k
- *SOURCE:* United States Department of Energy (DOE).

9). ITEM: 2 -80C freezers made by Baxter/Revco. No further information available.

- *FIXED ASSET VALUE:* \$3-5k each
- *SOURCE:* United States Department of Energy (DOE).

**TOTAL ESTIMATED FIXED ASSET VALUE: \$2,407,000-\$2,461,000**

**Question 4: *Cost of Ownership***

In effect the cost of ownership for this used/donated equipment is negligible. This is because this equipment will not be run consistently, and will be used for *demonstration* purposes only.

**Question 6: *Energy Required to Operate***

The equipment will be used infrequently; therefore, energy costs for this donated equipment as described above will be negligible.

**Question 6: *Annual Maintenance Cost***

Because the equipment is for demonstration only, there are no maintenance costs, and no need to replace this specific equipment in the future. For the purpose of *lecture* instruction and production, we are requesting new equipment. However, please note the facility we propose will be self sustaining. DNA sequencing and similar production work will generate enough capital to pay for maintenance contracts, consumables and other supplies, as well as instruction. Meanwhile, we hope funds can be identified to initially purchase the necessary equipment to set up the production facility through Measure A, or other such funding source. Equipment purchases beyond this initial set-up are planned to be funded either through monies generated by the Genomics production facility or through grant funding. There has been some moving and storage expense, which will continue until we have a permanent home. We intend to pay for maintenance contracts through money generated through the Genomics production facility.

**Question 7: *Cost to replace with similar equipment in the future***

Will not be replacing this equipment with any similar, as it will be used for demonstration only (per above). New technologies for sequencing DNA have just surfaced in the past few

expense, which will continue until we have a permanent home. We intend to pay for maintenance contracts through money generated through the Genomics production facility.

**Question 7: *Cost to replace with similar equipment in the future***

Will not be replacing this equipment with any similar, as it will be used for demonstration only (per above). New technologies for sequencing DNA have just surfaced in the past few months; therefore, we will want to purchase new equipment to be used for instruction and production purposes of the Genomics Program. This new equipment, will use only one thirtieth (1/30) of the energy that the old (donated) equipment would have used if it were to be used on a regular basis.

**Question 8: *What program will the item support?***

The programs that these items support go beyond Genomics. We need this equipment to demonstrate the technological history of Genomics and to teach students basic laboratory techniques. With this donated equipment, new equipment, and a dedicated facility, we will be able to have a Genomics Program, and because there are pre-requisite courses in Math, English, and Biology that our students must take, this donated equipment in effect supports those academic programs as well. In addition, Genomics offers students an alternative to Allied Health careers, thus giving students more options for career pathways to support their future, family, and community. It is also likely that Genomics, Microscopy, Allied Health, and similar research and career technical education programs will work together on projects in the near future.

**Question 9: *Where will the equipment be located?***

The equipment is currently located in storage containers on the Merritt campus. It will be moved to 860 Atlantic Avenue when the upgrades to that facility are complete. The 860 Atlantic Avenue facility will provide temporary housing for the Genomics program until the new Merritt Allied Health Sciences Building is constructed. The equipment will then be moved to its permanent location in the new Allied Health Sciences Building.

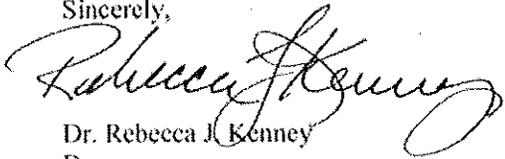
**Question 10: *Is that program in line with the master plan of the college?***

This program is in line with the Educational Master Plan for Merritt College. In our College's Master Plan, our Department's Program Review, and our Genomics Program Unit Plan, we describe the importance of using state-of-the-art equipment to teach students skills and techniques currently practiced in Biotech business and industry. Our Genomics Program curriculum, equipment, and instructors at Merritt College are so unique and in demand from biotech companies, that four-year schools are working with our College's faculty to articulate their curriculum, courses, and programs with us. Universities such as San Francisco State have been in conversation with us and indicate that they want to collaborate with our Genomics Program, sending their graduate students through our program as students or as interns. This Genomics Program content and Certification makes us eligible for funding for curriculum development and job training as has been made available by the Obama Administration.

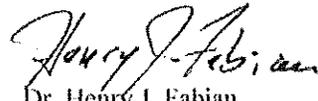
**Question 11: Source of funding for storage, move coordination, shipping, installation, etc.**

The source of funding for moving and storage has been college discretionary funds.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rebecca J. Kenney  
Dean  
Math, Science and Vocational Programs



Dr. Henry J. Fabian  
Biology Co-Chair  
Genomics Program Director

CC: Dr. Bobby Adams  
Dr. Linda Berry  
Dr. Bob Macey