On Oct. 13, 2011, three of Oregon’s top universities broke ground on a unique project that will combine the resources of these nationally respected institutions to benefit all 96,000 square miles of the state. The OHSU/ OUS Collaborative Life Sciences Building will place portions of Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon State University and Portland State University under one roof. In doing so, the facility will extend partnerships among the universities, create new employment opportunities, and expand the schools’ teaching facilities, class sizes and research activities.

The 498,642-square-foot building will include lecture halls, classrooms, labs, specialty research centers, offices and a state-of-the-art facility for the OHSU School of Dentistry. The Collaborative Life Sciences Building will foster collaboration in undergraduate and graduate education among students and instructors from multiple institutions.

The Collaborative Life Sciences Building will be located on Portland’s South Waterfront, south of the Marquam Bridge and north of the Ross Island Bridge. The building will be accessible by streetcar, tram and a new light rail line, currently under construction, that will connect South Waterfront with southeast Portland.
What’s inside?
- Skourtes Tower: New cutting-edge learning space and clinic for the OHSU School of Dentistry to replace aging facilities on Marquam Hill
- Teaching labs for PSU biology, chemistry, and pre-professional health care students
- Education space for OHSU’s medical students, dental students, physician assistant students and nursing students
- OSU’s College of Pharmacy (third year of joint OSU/OHSU program)
- A state-of-the-art simulation center where practitioners, students and staff from all of the health professions train side by side
- OHSU Center for Spatial Systems Biomedicine
- Labs for research in basic and applied science and engineering
- Shared instrumentation labs with electron microscopy, NMR and other specialized, sophisticated instrumentation
- Ground-floor retail space for lease

OHSU program impacts
- Provides capacity to increase medical school class from 120 to 160 students
- Provides capacity to increase dental school class from 75 to 90 students
- Provides capacity to increase physician assistant program class size from 40 to 50 students
- Provides capacity to increase pharmacy program from 90 to 115 students

PSU program impacts
- State-of-the-art 403 seat lecture hall will be largest on PSU campus
- Increased academic space will accommodate rapid growth in health science programs, complementing newly renovated and expanded Science Research & Teaching Center at PSU
- Dedicated lab space will support transdisciplinary research, enhance collaborations between PSU and OHSU faculty, and attract new investigators and research funding

Timeline
Groundbreaking: October 2011
Opening: Summer 2014 for some OHSU programs
Fall 2014 for all programs

Construction jobs
Approx. 250 full-time jobs
Up to 500 on site on a given day

Finances
Construction of the building is being funded by a unique public-private partnership model:
- Tri-Met: $10 million
- State Bonds: $110 million
- OHSU Philanthropy: $83 million
- OHSU Institutional Funding: $92 million
- Total: $295 million

Right: The Skourtes Tower was named for OHSU School of Dentistry supporters Bonnie and Gene Skourtes, D.M.D., whose $10 million philanthropic investment helped make the new dental school facility possible.

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