

Centralia College to Renovate Clock Tower

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Centralia College Clock Tower

Centralia College students walk past the clock tower along the Gordon Aadland Esplanade during the first day of the 2013-14 school year.

Centralia College's iconic clock tower will get a dramatic facelift this summer.

After graduation ceremonies conclude, the wood beams in the 25-year-old clock tower will be replaced with a taller steel structure and a new clock face, according to a press release from the college.

The tower will be about 10 feet taller at just over 40 feet.

"Any wooden, outdoor structure in Washington is going to have a limited lifespan," Steve Ward, vice president of administrative services, said. "We've reached that point with the clock tower. The timbers have exceeded their useful life."

Ward said the new steel will ensure the tower meets seismic standards. He also said the more modern design will fit well into the college's campus.

The current clock tower was built in 1991 and was the tallest structure on campus at the time. Since it was built, the college's campus has changed, dwarfing the structure.

The project is estimated to cost about \$400,000 and will be paid out of the state's capital appropriation. The college will seek construction bids on the project in the coming weeks.

The tower is expected to be completed before fall quarter classes start in September.

In 1997, the college created the College Tower Diversity Project, which featured monuments to individuals or groups who made significant contributions to the Northwest around the clock tower's base. The original base of the structure and the diversity monuments will not be altered, stated the press release.