

UW finds a new contracting director

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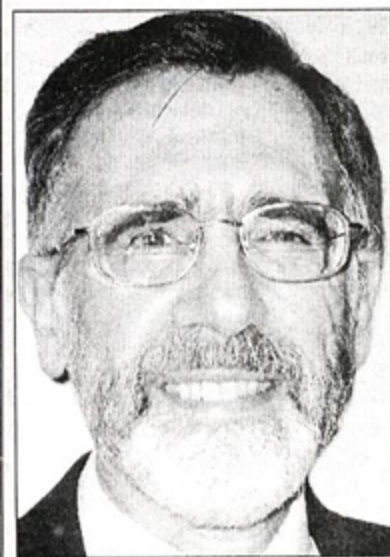
By **TERRY STEPHENS**
Special to the Journal

MIKE PURDY, a long-time city of Seattle employee and professional consultant, has taken over as the University of Washington's contracts manager.

From the Capital Projects Office, Purdy is in charge of design and construction contracts for about \$1 billion worth of work at the university, plus he will be responsible for hundreds of millions more in coming years.

"The job had a real attraction for me. It's a large university, the largest in the state," Purdy said. "I've already worked for the largest city in the state and for the largest housing authority in the state, Seattle's."

With 26 years of experience in public-sector contracting, Purdy has gained a solid reputation for his work. His Purdy & Associates consulting firm has advised government agencies, nonprofits, contractors and other consultants on contracting and procurement needs and procedures.



Purdy

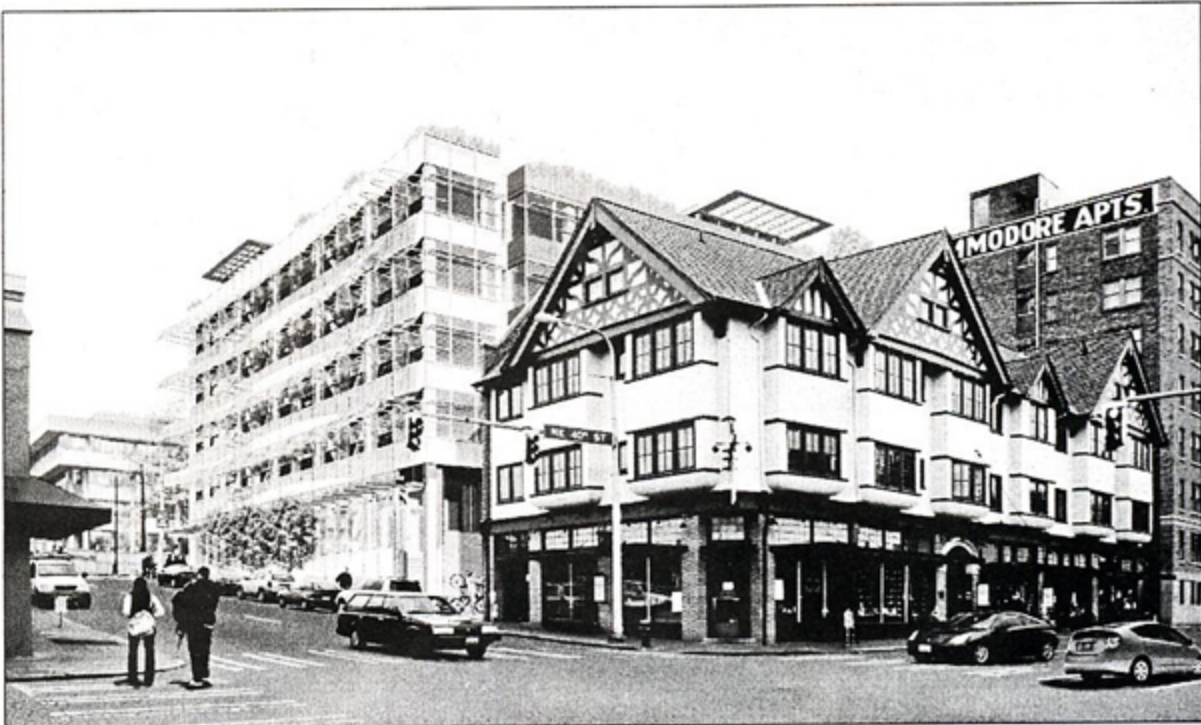


Photo courtesy Perkins + Will

The \$17 million UW Educational Outreach Building, in the design stage, is one of the contracts being managed by Mike Purdy in his new role at the university's Capital Projects Office.

For the past five years, he was the contracting and procurement manager for the Seattle Housing Authority, managing the agency's construction, design, consultant and service contracts, as well as procuring goods and supplies. He played a key role in developing, negotiating and managing contracts for major housing developments in southeast Seattle, including NewHolly and Rainier Vista, and High Point in West Seattle.

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees in business and public administration at the University of Puget Sound, plus a master's degree in divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, Purdy spent 21 years with the city of Seattle, leaving the municipality as its contracting manager. While he was there he implemented and administered a program requiring contractors on large public works projects to use apprentices for a certain percentage of total work hours.

In his new role with the university, he's eight weeks into learning about current projects and getting used to the large campus

environment. One element of his new job — opportunities to develop and conduct staff training — is what enticed him to make the move, he said.

Purdy is also spending much of his time keeping track of legislative issues that affect the university from a design and construction perspective.

"The whole element of just thinking about how we do business and our different methodologies is intriguing. The university does a lot of GC/CM contracts and has a couple of design-build projects now. It seemed to me to be a wonderful opportunity to expand and grow personally," he said.

One of the projects under way that fascinates him, he said, is a design-build contract for the \$17 million Educational Outreach Building that will house the university's staff for continuing education and life-long learning



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programs. The project is in the design development stage. The team includes general contractor Ledor and architect Perkins + Will.

Another upcoming project is a \$24 million renovation of Architecture Hall, which includes a GC/CM contract with Mortenson and Thomas Hacker Architects.

"We have a 10-year capital plan that is, of course, funded through the state Legislature," Purdy said. "Our clients are the various departments of the university that have needs for renovation or project construction. We would be involved in the selection process, the contracts and issues that come up with contractors during the construction."

Purdy replaced Kathleen Nichols, whom retired from the position after 10 years.

More information about the university's contracting procedures is available at www.cpo.washington.edu.

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