Legislative Briefing Book
2015-17

Active Minds Changing Lives
Western Washington University’s mission is to serve the people of the state of Washington, the nation and the world by bringing together individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives in an inclusive, student-centered university that develops the potential of learners and the well-being of communities.

Our vision is to build a stronger Washington by being an international leader in active learning, critical thinking and societal problem-solving.

Our Strategic Goals:

• **Building upon Western’s strengths** to address critical needs in the state of Washington.

• **Expanding student access** to rigorous and engaging baccalaureate and graduate education.

• **Fostering and promoting life-long learning** and success in an ever-changing world.

• **Applying Western’s expertise and collaborative approach** to scholarship, creativity and research in ways that strengthen communities beyond the campus.

• **Serving as a model** for institutional effectiveness, innovation, diversity and sustainability.
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INSTITUTIONAL Profile

AT A GLANCE

• One of Washington’s six state-funded, four-year institutions of higher education.
  • The state’s third-largest higher education institution.
  • Operates on the quarter system.
  • Seven academic divisions: College of Science and Engineering, Huxley College of the Environment, College of Business and Economics, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Fine and Performing Arts, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Woodring College of Education, and the Graduate School.
  • Dr. Bruce Shepard is WWU’s 13th president.

CAMPUS

• Perched on a hillside in Bellingham, between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., walking distance to Bellingham Bay and a short drive to Mount Baker.
  • A quarter of Western students live on the wooded 212-acre campus, which includes part of the 180-acre Sehome Arboretum.
  • Campus also includes the Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes, and a recreational complex at Lake Whatcom.
  • Also offers classes in Anacortes, Bremerton, Everett, Port Angeles, Poulsbo, Seattle, Tacoma and online.
  • Work is under way to include Western in Bellingham’s waterfront redevelopment.

SUSTAINABILITY

• Purchases 100 percent of its electrical energy from green sources via renewable energy credits.
  • One of the nation’s top purchasers of green energy in higher education, according to the EPA.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

• Consistently ranked the top master's-granting public university in the Pacific Northwest by U.S. News & World Report.
  • Faculty in fall 2014: 898.
  • Full-time faculty: 570, 88.6 percent with terminal degrees.
  • Student-faculty ratio: 18.9 to 1.

STUDENTS

• Fall 2014 enrollment: 15,060 full- and part-time students.
  • Students of color: 23.6 percent.
  • First-year students: 2,786 freshmen and 1,108 transfers.
  • 2013 freshmen returning: 82.3 percent.
  • Six-year graduation rate: 71.2 percent.
  • Average time to degree: 4.3 years.
  • In-state students: 90 percent, with top counties King, Snohomish, Whatcom and Pierce.
  • Low-income students: 1 in 4.
  • First-generation college students: 1 in 3.

ALUMNI

• More than 110,000 graduates live in Washington and around the world.
  • Top employers of alumni include Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, Google, school districts and small and large businesses throughout the state.
  • Graduates include leaders in business, public service, education, the sciences, the arts, and academia.
  • Western ranks first in the nation among medium-sized schools for alumni serving in the Peace Corps.

FINANCES

• Resident undergraduate tuition and fees are $8,965 for three academic quarters.
  • State operating budget in 2014-15 is $145 million, including state appropriations and tuition revenue.
  • State appropriation funds approximately 39 percent of the operating budget. Tuition is approximately 61 percent.
Western in WASHINGTON

Students

Total students: 15,060
From Washington: 13,414 (90 percent)

Alumni

Total alumni: 110,210
Living in Washington: 86,251 (78 percent)
THE STATE INVESTS ...

The Legislature’s investment in Western is paying dividends for the state’s economy by:

Meeting the state’s need for training in Computer Science
- Adding 275 new students to the Computer Science Department, quadrupling the number of graduates.
- Expanding access to Computer Science courses that enable students to graduate more quickly.
- Creating three new Computer Science programs:
  - Computational Science
  - Social Computing
  - Computer and Informational System Security

Generating more engineers to meet state needs
- Western’s well-respected Engineering Technology programs are transitioning to full ABET-accredited Engineering degrees:
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Manufacturing Engineering
  - Plastics/Composites Engineering
- 450 students are transitioning to the Engineering degree program.
- Engineering graduates benefit from a hands-on learning experience unique to Western.

Building a pioneering program in Energy Studies
- The Institute for Energy Studies is one of the only comprehensive bachelor’s degree programs in the country combining science, technology, economics, business management, politics and public policy.
- Students are trained to become leaders in the new energy economy. Energy sector jobs include energy field auditor, energy economist and renewable energy project manager.
- The industry advisory board includes executives from the public and private sectors, including Alaska Airlines, Puget Sound Energy, McKinstry, Boeing, the Bullitt Foundation and the Washington Clean Tech Alliance.
...WESTERN DELIVERS

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

• Western was the top national producer of Fulbright Scholarship recipients from public master’s-granting universities in 2012-13.

• Western is 13th among the nation’s more than 560 comprehensive universities for undergraduate alumni who go on to earn research doctorates.

• Western’s Shannon Point Marine Center has received numerous grants from the National Science Foundation for high-quality marine research.

• Faculty and students are engaged in cutting-edge research projects exploring sea star wasting disease, the link between groundwater depletion and seismic activity, and factors associated with resiliency following natural disasters.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

• Western is the best public, master’s-granting institution in the Pacific Northwest, and one of the most efficient in producing educational quality, according to U.S. News and World Report.

• Western is the top medium-sized university in the nation for alumni enrolled in the Peace Corps.

• Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine ranks Western 93rd on its national list of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges for 2013, reflecting academic quality as well as cost.

STUDENTS OF DISTINCTION

• Western students win top fellowships and awards, recently including the Fulbright Scholarship, the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship and the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship.

• Western students won more NOAA Hollings fellowships in 2012-13 than students at any university west of Oklahoma.

• Western students won the Pacific Rim Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition – and placed fourth in the nation.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

• Western student mentors have spent thousands of hours working with area children through Compass 2 Campus, which encourages youngsters to start early setting a course for college.

• Psychology’s Jeff Carroll was named the Huntington’s Disease Society of America’s Researcher of the Year with a colleague for their outreach and education work.

• Western alumni make a difference in businesses around the state. For example, alumni are key executives at Microsoft and The Boeing Company.
Operating Budget Request Summary

**Student Success ($2.4 million)**
Western Washington University has a proven track record in the retention and graduation of our students and as a result is well positioned to serve the incoming first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students who are the state’s future. Western is requesting an investment that is proven to work and is committed to measuring the success of these students. At the core of Western’s concerns and priorities is the ability to provide quality academic advising, tutoring and retention services – services that are now overwhelmed by the increased demand. Specifically, Western intends to invest in:

- Student Advising, Outreach and Mentoring
- Academic Tutoring Support
- Mental Health Support
- disAbility Support for Students
- Destination Graduation: College completion for returning adults

**Critical Compensation Adjustments ($13.1 million)**
Higher education is a mission-driven and talent-based enterprise competing in a national marketplace. Consequently, the ability to fulfill our mission to provide the highest quality instruction, research and services to students and other stakeholders requires competitive compensation to attract and retain the diverse talent necessary to maintain Western’s excellence. Competitive compensation remains a top priority to meet our obligations to effectively serve Washington students. This request includes funding an amount equivalent to a 4 percent per year increase for all employees.

**Vehicle Engineering ($1.3 million)**
This interdisciplinary engineering program would be the first in the state of Washington and would prepare graduates for critical state industries such as aerospace, automotive, commercial trucking, marine and the supporting composites industry. The proposal builds upon Western’s strengths in Manufacturing Engineering, Plastics and Composites Engineering, and Electrical Engineering, as well as Western’s highly successful Vehicle Research Institute and Industrial Technology-Vehicle Design program. The Vehicle Engineering Program would increase the number of accredited engineering graduates at Western by 30 percent. It has the unanimous support of the Industrial Advisory Committee of the Industrial Technology-Vehicle Design program.

**Engineering Geology ($1.2 million)**
These new Engineering Geology BS and MS programs would be the first in the state of Washington and would address state and national priorities to protect people and property from geological hazards. The programs will include significant components of policy, planning and service to work with local, state and regional agencies on issues related to engineering geology.

**Clinical Doctorate in Audiology ($1.4 million)**
As of 2007 the entry-level degree in audiology has been a clinical doctorate, so in 2005 Western placed most of the graduate-level audiology curriculum in moratorium. This proposal is for a clinical doctorate program in audiology that meets the 2014 Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Western’s clinical doctorate program in audiology would help meet student demand by producing 12 highly qualified audiologists per year, matching the number of audiologists produced by the University of Washington, and doubling the number of graduates in the state.
ENSURING STUDENT SUCCESS

$2.4 million: Western has a proven track record in the retention and graduation of our students and is well-positioned to serve the first-generation, low-income and underrepresented students who are the state’s future college graduates.

The demographics of Washington are changing with the rapid growth of K-12 students within groups who have not typically enrolled in higher education. Many of these academically bright and capable students will require – and deserve – increased support such as mentoring, advising and counseling to ensure their success.

When the state of Washington invests in Western, Western delivers a great return. Western is requesting an investment in:

- **Student Advising, Outreach and Mentoring** to provide adequate support for students to navigate college. Students whose families have no experience with higher education often need support to stay on track to graduation. Western also wants to use data analytics to focus advising and support services to best serve those most at risk. On-site residential advising will also deliver services to first-generation students in residence halls after hours.

- **Academic Tutoring Support**. Demand for Tutoring Center services has nearly tripled over the past six years, but resources have not kept pace. Meanwhile, data analysis shows first-year students who visit the Tutoring Center are more likely to continue toward graduation.

- **Mental Health Support**. According to the National College Health Assessment survey, Western students report that stress, anxiety and depression are a major interference with academic success. The number of clients at the Counseling Center has doubled during the past five years while mental health needs are becoming more severe.

- **disAbility Support for Students**. Since 2009, disAbility Resources for Students has seen a 77-percent growth in the number of students who qualify for services, but the staffing level has not kept pace.

- **Destination Graduation – College Completion for Returning Adults**. A one-year grant from the College Spark Foundation in 2007 launched the program, which invites students who had left Western close to graduation, but in good academic standing, to re-enroll and graduate. During the grant, 229 students re-enrolled and 181 graduated. With ongoing state support, the program could be re-introduced with the potential for replication at all of the state’s baccalaureate institutions.
$13.1 million: Western remains a premier, publically purposed university because of the talent, commitment, and dedication of each of its employees. In order to maintain the excellence of Western, compensation remains a top priority.

Compensation analysis shows that Western is lagging behind local, regional and national salary comparisons. A salary increase for all classifications of employees is needed to remain competitive in attracting and retaining high quality employees.

This request includes funding an amount equivalent to a 4 percent per year increase for all employees:

**Faculty** are the backbone of the university. Faculty compensation is a historical challenge for Western and has long been an unmet priority for the institution.

**Exempt (professional) staff** have received only one increase since 2008. Western has implemented a new compensation/classification system and is ready to implement salary increases to meet stated goals.

Washington’s 2014 Total Compensation Survey for **Classified Staff** indicates wages paid to the great majority of Western’s classified staff employees are below market; in many instances, wages were determined to be 25 percent or more below market.

The **student labor** wage scale has not been adjusted for many years, and the compensation grid has been compressed as the state minimum wage has increased.

Actual increases will be dependent on the level of funding received, collective bargaining agreements and the implementation of the recently approved professional staff compensation plan.
$1.3 million: This proposal builds upon Western’s existing strengths in Manufacturing Engineering, Plastics and Composites Engineering, and Electrical Engineering, as well as the highly successful Vehicle Research Institute and Industrial Technology-Vehicle Design program.

Meeting the state’s need for more engineers

The interdisciplinary Vehicle Engineering program would be the first in the state of Washington and would prepare graduates for critical state industries such as composites and transportation, including, but not limited to, the aerospace industry. The number of accredited engineering graduates at Western would increase by 30 percent.

The Vehicle Engineering program will seek accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology-Engineering Accreditation Commission (ABET-EAC) to give graduates of the program more options and opportunities for employment, especially at larger companies such as Boeing.

Western would add three faculty members to the existing Industrial Technology-Vehicle Design program in the areas of electronics, manufacturing and composite materials; one technical staff member to support the increased laboratory requirements; and one faculty member each to Physics and Mathematics to help support the required increase in math and science course requirements.

A quick timeline

This new program will complement the newly created Electrical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, and Plastics and Composites Engineering programs, as well as University initiatives such as the Institute for Energy Studies and the Advanced Materials Science and Engineering Center.

Funding this proposal as part of the 2015-17 biennial budget will allow for faculty and staff hiring to begin and curricular approval to take place during the 2015-16 academic year. The first upper-division students would begin fall of 2016, the first program graduates would be spring 2018.
ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

$1.2 million: New Engineering Geology BS and MS programs at Western would be the first in the state of Washington and would provide qualified, licensed engineering geologists trained to protect the health and welfare of our citizens by identifying geological hazards.

Protecting Washington’s people and property

Engineering geologists analyze and apply geological data to civil works such as buildings, bridges, roads and dams. Engineering geologists also identify geologic hazards, such as those from landslides, coastal erosion, flooding and earthquakes, and assess groundwater quantity and quality.

The demand for engineering geologists in the state is growing due to increased development, hazard assessment efforts, environmental regulations and professional retirements.

First in the state of Washington

Although the state of Washington regulates the practice of engineering geology, none of the state’s eight colleges and universities with BS geosciences programs are providing the academic training necessary for a BS degree in engineering geology. However, there is significant student interest in geosciences as a profession because of its importance and marketability.

Inadequate university training harms the many state and regional businesses (especially small consulting firms) that cannot hire fully qualified professional engineering geologists (or hydrogeologists), and must provide additional training and supervision for their employees to qualify for licensure. This request will help meet student interest and business demand throughout the state.

This request is also supported by state agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation, which have increasing demand for engineering geologists for construction and maintenance of infrastructure projects, and to assess and map geologic hazards such as the recent Oso landslide.

Who are Engineering Geologists?

Engineering geologists have exclusive training in soil, rock and fluid mechanics, geologic site characterization, policy, and sustainability — and they are different from engineers such as geotechnical engineers or geological engineers who work more with the design elements of civil works. The state of Washington regulates the practice of engineering geology and requires professional licensing.
DOCTORATE IN AUDIOLOGY

$1.4 million: Offering a clinical doctorate, the entry-level degree in audiology, would enable Western to meet local, state, and national demand and will take advantage of space, curricula and staff already in place.

Audiologists serve a diverse and aging population

Employment for audiologists is projected to grow by 34 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the 11 percent growth rate for all occupations. Audiologists have starting salaries averaging about $67,000 a year and work closely with people experiencing hearing loss due to aging, stroke, neurological disorders and premature birth. Thousands of veterans are also on disability due to hearing loss.

Despite a growing need for and awareness of audiology, the Au.D. degree is offered by only six universities in the western United States, with no programs in Alaska and Hawai. Washington’s only doctoral program in audiology is at the University of Washington, which receives about 10 applicants for each available spot.

Double the state’s capacity to train audiologists

Western’s audiology doctorate program would produce 12 highly qualified audiologists per year, 48 in a four-year cycle. This will double the number of audiologists produced in the state of Washington each year.

The proposed Doctorate of Audiology degree program will provide an academic and clinical foundation for professionals providing services to infants, children and adults with auditory and balance impairments. Graduates of the four-year program will be eligible to apply for the American Speech Language and Hearing Association’s Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (ASHA CCC-A).

Training in a clinical setting

The clinical doctorate program will focus on concentrated academic training in conjunction with progressive clinical skills development at Western Washington University’s Audiology and Aural Rehabilitation Clinics, and via short-term internship placements at various off-campus medical, educational and private practice settings.
CARVER ACADEMIC RENOVATION

$73 million: The Carver Academic Facility, located in the middle of Western’s campus, is the vibrant hub for many large-volume academic programs and campus life activities. Carver is the most heavily used building on campus, with facilities ranging from specialized laboratories to multi-use gym space for instruction and activities. However, substandard seismic and life safety conditions are documented and must be addressed if this building is to serve students now and in the near future.

The project is ready and makes sense:
• OFM ranks Carver as the top major construction priority among the six baccalaureate institutions for the 2015-17 biennium.
• The state has already invested $7.3 million in Predesign and Design.
• The latest delay has already increased the cost of the construction phase from $69.3 million to $73 million.

A dying building:
Carver urgently needs seismic repair
• Critical areas of Carver would likely fail in a Nisqually-sized earthquake, according to a consultant study.
• Parts of Carver scored five points out of 100 for seismic stability.
• Deferred maintenance totals more than $21 million – 16 percent of Western’s total backlog.
• Piping failures have dumped thousands of gallons of raw sewage under the building.
• Aged mechanical systems are shut down because of breakage and unavailable replacement parts.
• Restrooms provide only 40 percent of code-required fixtures.
• There is no ADA access to classrooms and labs above the first floor.

A world of opportunity:
• 308 academic classes and labs are taught in Carver each academic year.
• There are 798 student majors in Carver, a number that has increased by 127 percent since 2002.
• Carver houses the largest and fastest-growing academic program at Western and meets critical unmet needs in the state’s workforce with programs in:
  – Pre-Physical Therapy
  – Pre-Health Care Professions
  – Health and Fitness Specialist
  – Sport Psychology
  – P-12 Teacher Education/Health Teacher Education
  – Community Health
  – Movement Studies
  – Recreation
• The renovation will add new classrooms and labs to support an additional 185 graduates per year.
SCIENCE BUILDING
Renovation and Addition

Predesign, $500,000. Design, $8.3 million: Growth in STEM/High-Demand majors and a concurrent shift from non-STEM disciplines at Western has depleted the availability of the specialized instructional spaces that are required to support such growth. A major renovation and a modest addition to the 41-year-old Environmental Studies Center is the most programmatically beneficial and cost-effective approach to provide Western with the science instructional space that it needs.

Western seeks funding for both predesign and design to jump-start this project and move into construction in the 2017-19 biennium. The renovation and addition to the Science Building would help Western meet the changing needs of high-demand, high-impact programs housed in the College of Science and Engineering, and the space/programmatic needs in the Huxley College of the Environment.

Other capital projects

Information Technology Network Update (Design/Construction: $4 million)
The Information Technology Network Update will replace undersized and outdated equipment in the Core Router Systems, Edge Security Systems, and Data Center Systems, which will increase our ability to utilize available Internet bandwidth and provide enhanced data security.

2015-17 Classroom and Lab Upgrades (Design/Construction: $4.9 million)
As in the previous two biennia, Western is requesting design and construction funding to renovate and repurpose instructional space to support Western’s evolving program needs. OFM ranks this request as the #1 capital project among the six baccalaureate institutions for the 2015-17 biennium.

Campus Wireless Upgrade (Design/Construction: $4.7 million)
Increased coverage and ‘throughput’ must occur as the wireless network is becoming increasingly fundamental to our work and success. The Information Technology Network Update is required in order to have the necessary backbone in place to expand the Campus Wireless System and provide ubiquitous wireless access.

Minor Capital Request Items (Preservation: $14.96 million; Program: $12.9 million)
As in previous biennial requests, our Minor Works Preservation and Minor Works Program omnibus categories are for requests for projects ranging in size from $25,000 to $2 million. Historically, the projects range from roofing replacements to exterior renewal to fire alarm upgrades to office renovations.
Intended Outcome:
Circulation improvements such as paving, storm water systems and passenger amenities will improve passenger safety, mitigate storm-water issues, bring the site up to ADA standards and improve traffic flow.

The final design is proposed to begin in July 2015. Once underway the project would take approximately 18 months.

Project Status:
Western owns and operates the Lincoln Creek Transportation Center. The former site of a drive-in movie theatre, it’s now a 500-space, undulated gravel parking lot with poor drainage. Western has completed a preliminary design to create an ADA-accessible regional park-and-ride facility, public transit hub and remote university parking lot.
Western Washington University is proud to be a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), an organization made up of more than 400 public colleges, universities and systems across the nation.

Like all State Colleges and Universities, Western’s culture is focused on students and centered on learning and teaching. Western and other SCU’s share a historical commitment to under-served student populations and a dedication to research and creativity that set SCU’s apart from land-grant or research universities and community and technical colleges. Western advances the economic progress and cultural development in the state of Washington, as do SCU’s in their home states across the country.

SCU’s embrace three core values: Quality, Accessibility and Responsibility.

**High Quality:** Western embraces a student-centered focus that emphasizes learning and teaching. Western students are taught and mentored by a faculty of scholars in smaller class sizes. Western supports a broad range of different learning styles and opportunities – from its Honors Program to hands-on applied research with faculty, both in the lab and in the field.

**Accessible:** As a state university, Western provides a high-quality educational experience to a diverse cross-section of the region’s residents, including nontraditional students and groups that have been underrepresented in higher education. Western strives to foster campus diversity, build inclusiveness, and enable partnerships to succeed. For more information about these efforts, go to our Diversity at Western site: www.wwu.edu/diversity.

**Responsible:** SCUs like Western create the skilled workforce to support the state’s businesses while advancing economic progress and cultural development. As a place of public purpose, Western prepares its students for a life of leadership and service and enhances their abilities to attain financial independence after graduation.
STATE FTE FUNDING

The Legislature’s investment in Western Washington University has begun to address a long-standing issue: Western receives less funding per student FTE than almost all of the state’s other four-year universities and less per student FTE than the state’s community and technical colleges.

### State Funding per Budgeted FTE Enrollments

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<td>Washington State University</td>
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<td>The Evergreen State College</td>
<td>$5,093</td>
<td>$4,860</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Washington University</td>
<td>$4,612</td>
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<td>Central Washington University</td>
<td>$4,446</td>
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<td>$4,495</td>
<td>$4,379</td>
<td>$4,437</td>
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<td>Community and Technical Colleges</td>
<td>$4,497</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average (TESC, EWU and CWU)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Western Washington University</strong></td>
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<td>Per FTE State Funding Gap</td>
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<td>Per FTE Percent Gap</td>
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Active Minds Changing Lives