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.

**SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST**

**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 traditionally underserved students who are the state’s future college graduates. Significant increases in student demand coupled with decreased funding have limited Western’s ability to offer key support services such as academic advising, tutoring and retention services to our students. Western is requesting an investment in effective student support services that will provide a strong return on investment for the state in terms of increased retention and graduation rates, shorter time to degree, and increased success for all students.

**Network/Wireless Renewal Initiative ($4 million)**
Western’s existing data network and wireless access infrastructure is outdated and fails to meet basic needs of the university’s core academic functions. Most, if not all, of Western’s academic and administrative workload uses the data network, and the proliferation of mobile devices along with the need for wireless connectivity exacerbate Western’s need for a more reliable network. Limited wireless capacity and an aging IT infrastructure not only disrupt student, faculty, and staff work on a daily basis, these issues also pose significant safety and security threats, including increased vulnerability to data security breaches, network outages and insufficient wireless connectivity for emergency responders. Replacement equipment for the IT network is currently funded out of cash reserves, and most wireless capacity is funded through a limited student fee. This decision package provides an ongoing source for improving and maintaining the campus’s IT foundation – even as technology advances – to ensure a world class education for students and to support a workplace of choice for faculty and staff.

**WWU at a Glance**

- 15,332 students
- 2,809 new freshmen
- 1,161 new transfer students
- 707 graduate students
- 95 percent undergraduates
- 56 percent female
- 88 percent resident of Washington
- 25 percent students of color
- 33 percent first generation students
- 3,378 undergraduate degrees awarded in 2015
- 82 percent freshman retention rate
- 65 percent of freshmen who start at Western graduate within four years
- 59 percent of freshmen enrolled with college credit
- 73 percent of enrolled transfer students come directly from a state community college, led by Whatcom, Bellevue, Skagit, Everett and Olympic community colleges
- 160+ academic programs
- 99 percent of classes taught by faculty, not graduate assistants
SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Security Upgrades for Campus Lockdown Capabilities ($4.8 million)
Active shooter incidents are increasing at an alarming rate, and university and college campuses are among the most vulnerable locations for such tragedies to occur. Western Washington University requests funding to ensure that exterior doors of all academic facilities are equipped with electronically controlled hardware featuring remotely triggered lockdown capabilities. The vast majority of exterior doors on campus are traditional brass keying systems without remote access capabilities, leaving students and faculty at risk should Western experience an active shooter emergency on campus. Western proposes to improve its emergency response by expanding its electronic access control system to enable immediate lockdown of occupied facilities and ensure that all buildings on campus are equipped with the same safety standards.

LEARN MORE:
Becca Kenna-Schenk
Director of Government Relations
becca.kenna-schenk@wwu.edu
(360) 951-3733

Joe Timmons
Assistant Director of Government Relations
joe.timmons@wwu.edu
(206) 351-3756

WWU Points of Distinction
Western is 13th among more than 560 comprehensive universities in the nation for undergraduate alumni who go on to earn research doctorates.

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

For the third year in a row, Western is the top medium-sized university in the nation for alumni enrolled in the Peace Corps.

Western is one of five national recipients of the 2015 Active Minds Healthy Campus Award, which recognizes the university community as one of the healthiest in the country.

Western is the highest-ranking public, master’s-granting university in the Pacific Northwest, according to the 2015 U.S. News & World Report college rankings.

U.S. News & World Report also ranked Western as the top public university of its type in the Pacific Northwest on its list of highly ranked universities that operate most efficiently.

Western ranks in Kiplinger’s 2015 list of 100 Best Values in Public Colleges and Universities.

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