Support All Washington Students
Western strongly supports programs that ensure all Washington students have access to quality postsecondary opportunities. This includes support for proposals to fully fund the State Need Grant, as well as state and federal efforts to protect and support our DACA and undocumented students.

Reduce Bottlenecks in STEM Degree Programs
($1.2 million per year + $300k in one-time costs)
STEM majors at Western have more than doubled since 2005, and the university requests $1.2 million per year to help meet growing student demand and address bottlenecks in STEM degree programs. This plan will increase capacity in entry-level courses in Math, Physics and Chemistry that are required for STEM majors, and accommodate an additional 100 STEM students per year. This investment will also reduce time to degree by an average of two academic quarters—saving students and families thousands in tuition costs.

Marine, Coastal and Watershed Sciences Degree
($1 million per year + $300k in one-time costs)
Western requests funding to establish a new interdisciplinary STEM degree program designed to meet student and employer demand and help address Washington’s emerging challenges associated with climate change, resource management, and the growing fields of coastal science and policy. The focus of the Marine, Coastal, and Watershed Sciences program would be unique in its coastal sea-and-land emphasis, which requires a multidisciplinary approach to solving challenges related to coastal and estuary pollution, erosion, flooding, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, ocean acidification, sustainable energy, and changing hydrologic cycles. The new degree program would leverage Western’s existing areas of expertise in oceanographic, aquatic, and environmental sciences, and expand student access to Western’s existing Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes.

M&O for Poulsbo SEA Discovery Center
($165,000 per year)
Western is in the process of assuming ownership of the Poulsbo Marine Science Center building as part of the growing Western on the Peninsulas programs serving the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. The newly named SEA Discovery Center offers programs for youth in grades K-9 at the learning facility and aquarium, and serves as a community educational hub in downtown Poulsbo. Western requests funding needed to operate and maintain the building.