

As Washington's third largest public university, Western is committed to serving the people of the state with a focus on academic excellence and inclusive achievement. Western's top legislative priorities for 2019 reflect the University's most urgent needs in order to help advance the State's education attainment goals—that by 2024, at least 70% of adults in Washington, ages 25-44, will have a post-secondary credential.

MAINTAINING WESTERN'S STRENGTHS

In order for Western to attract and retain the high quality faculty and staff necessary to educate our students, WWU requests **\$15.3 million** in operating funds to fully fund negotiated contracts with classified staff and to provide a 4% per year compensation increase for all faculty and professional staff.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO STEM DEGREES

Western is experiencing unprecedented growth in the number of students majoring in STEM degree programs. These capacity constraints and bottlenecks in STEM programs limit WWU's ability to produce career-ready STEM graduates and delay students' time-to-graduation.

OPERATING REQUEST:

\$7.6 million – Expand STEM Capacity – This proposal will address existing course bottlenecks and generate a total of 112 new STEM graduates each year in the high-demand fields of pre-healthcare, Energy Science, and Electrical Engineering. Elements of the proposal include:

- Addressing State's shortage of healthcare providers by expanding capacity within pre-healthcare degree pathways;
- Creating a Bachelor of Science degree program in Energy Science & Technology to address clean energy workforce needs; and
- Growing WWU's Electrical Engineering program to address student and workforce demand.

CAPITAL REQUEST:

\$60 million – Interdisciplinary Sciences Building – This proposal will fund the construction of a 50,000 square foot addition to the existing Biology and Chemistry Building to support several STEM degree programs. The facility will address existing space constraints and help WWU produce 70 additional degrees each year in STEM and high-demand fields.

\$6.5 million – Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building – This proposal for pre-design/design funding will enable Western to plan for a 50,000 square foot building to address existing capacity constraints in the University's fastest growing majors and accommodate future growth, with the aim of tripling the number of electrical engineering graduates each year and increasing the number of computer science graduates by 50 percent. State funding will also leverage the strong potential for private-sector funding during the construction phase of the project.

OTHER KEY PRIORITIES

- \$5.9 million to update critical wired and wireless networks throughout campus, leading to enhanced learning opportunities for students and improved efficiencies for faculty and staff.
- \$2.2 million to improve Career-Connected Learning by expanding career counseling services to support every student in achieving their career potential.
- \$4.8 million to address the State's teacher shortage by increasing the number of teachers graduating from WWU by 200 each year in the high needs areas of elementary education, early childhood education, special education and secondary STEM education.

Quick Facts

2018-19

Western Washington University, the state's third-largest public university, serves the state, 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.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Consistently ranked the best public master's-granting institution in the Pacific Northwest, and second in the West, by U.S. News and World Report.

Third in the nation among master's-granting institutions producing Fulbright student award winners.

Third in the nation as producers of prestigious NOAA Ernest J. Hollings Undergraduate Scholars in 2018.

Top 10 among the nation's public and private master's-granting schools for graduates who go on to earn doctorates.

One of the nation's best schools for helping students from lower socio-economic backgrounds attain marketable degrees at affordable prices, according to Washington Monthly magazine.

Recipient of \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to enhance student success in STEM fields, particularly students who are typically under-represented in the natural sciences.

A "Military Friendly School," according to G.I. Jobs, placing Western in the top 20 percent of the nation's colleges and universities.

Nine of 15 athletics programs advanced to their NCAA championships in 2017-18.

STUDENTS

16,121 students

95% are undergraduates

87% are residents of Washington

99% of classes are taught by faculty, not graduate assistants

33% of degrees are awarded in STEM/high demand areas

33% of students are the first in their family to attend college

69% graduation rate (over 80 percent of students who start at WWU graduate at WWU or elsewhere)

4.2 years is the average time to degree

WWU ALUMNI

Western has produced more than 126,000 graduates, with over 78 percent of alumni living throughout Washington. Top employers of alumni include Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, Google and three-fourths of Washington's school districts.

