
Agency 365 – Washington State University
2011-2013 Operating Budget Request

Building the Washington State Economy
Performance Level Decision Package – PL WE

**Expand Spokane Undergraduate Medical Education (WWAMI) to Meet Statewide
Physician Shortages**

Agency Recommendation Summary:

Washington State University requests \$600,000 to work jointly with the University of Washington's School of Medicine (UWSOM) to continue the work of increasing the number of primary care physicians that practice in the state, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. This request builds on the successful and innovative cooperative medical program at the Riverpoint campus that is a joint effort under the direction of the UWSOM and WSU.

Continued expansion of medical education in Spokane and Eastern Washington requires that WSU and the UWSOM immediately (1) develop a coordinated 1st and 2nd year medical education program for Spokane that fits well with UW's existing curriculum and also provides the opportunity for team-based inter-professional education for medical, pharmacy, and nursing students; 2) increase the number of clinical clerkships in 2011-2013 for 3rd and 4th year medical students in Spokane and Eastern Washington; 3) expand residency training (also known as graduate medical education or GME) in Spokane and Eastern Washington; and 4) construct facilities that provide expanded instructional space for medical students and research space for the faculty who will teach them. These facilities have been designed into a portion of the Riverpoint Biomedical and Research Building that is WSU's number one capital construction priority for all campuses in 2011-2013.

Funding this WSU request in tandem with the related operating budget graduate medical education request from the UWSOM begins to address the first three of these critical steps.

Fiscal Details:

	2011-12		2012-13		2011-13
	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Biennium
General Fund State	1.0	200,000	3.2	400,000	600,000
Total	1.0	\$ 200,000	3.2	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000

Package Description:

Expanding medical education in Spokane and Eastern Washington will increase the number of primary care physicians practicing in the inland northwest. Studies clearly indicate that medical school and residency training delivered to a specific geographic region provides the greatest likelihood for graduating physicians to practice in that region. Physicians typically choose to practice in the same region where they go to medical school or receive their graduate medical education training as a medical resident.

Background of the Request.

There is a national consensus that the United States is facing a significant physician shortage. These national shortages are caused by population growth that has not been matched by medical education growth over the last 30 years, an aging population with

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increased demands for health care, new medical technologies, and changes in the working patterns of physicians. Compared to the US average of 20.2 physicians per 10,000 population, Eastern Washington has 17.7 physicians per 10,000 population according to a 2005 workforce study. In addition, because much of Eastern Washington is rural in nature, the physicians who serve it are predominately from primary care specialties. The percentage of US physicians choosing to practice primary care medicine is decreasing sharply and exacerbates the State of Washington's problem in recruiting the physician workforce it needs.

The significant physician workforce shortage in this state is worsening and is especially acute in rural areas in the primary care specialties. Studies clearly indicate that receiving medical education and residency training in an area provides immediate impact in mitigating the primary care physician workforce shortages.

Thus, there is a critical need to expand medical education for physician training to address this state's primary care physician workforce shortage. UW and WSU are developing business plans for expanded residency positions. Permanent funds are requested to implement the business plan by developing an integrated medical curriculum in Spokane and facilitating the expansion of residency programs. Priority will be given to primary care specialties.

The Riverpoint Campus and the cooperative program called "WWAMI."

Medical education in Spokane is directed by the UWSOM under a multi-state program which is referred to as "WWAMI", an acronym for the participating states: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. It is a program that makes medical education accessible to students in the northwestern United States by decentralizing the educational process and by sharing facilities and personnel at partner universities such as WSU.

The program uses the faculty and resources of host institutions such as WSU to deliver medical education far from UW's Seattle campus. WSU participates at its Pullman campus with a cohort of twenty medical students. This budget request expands the program at Riverpoint in Spokane that started in the fall of 2008. It also has a cohort of twenty medical students.

The WSU Request Addresses a Critical Step in Expanding Medical Education to Eastern Washington.

Funding the WSU portion of the request will provide the necessary resources for WSU and the UWSOM to develop an integrated 1st and 2nd year medical education program for Spokane and coordinate the rollout of the expanded program in the Eastern Washington region. Developing this program of study lays the foundation that will increase the number of medical students in the future. It also will allow team-based inter-professional education of health care professions students prior to the expansion. This integrated inter-professional education program will provide over 700 nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry

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students at the Riverpoint campus with increased opportunity to learn together across health science disciplines. This will cultivate collaborative practices such that health care teams can better provide patient-centered care in a very dynamic landscape of changing health care delivery and reform.

The UW Request Addresses the Third and Fourth Year of Medical Education.

These WWAMI students start the clinical part of their medical training in the third and fourth years of the educational program. During this part of their education, the students participate in clinical clerkship education experiences. The funding provided with the expansion of WWAMI Spokane will support clinical clerkships in Spokane, Eastern Washington and throughout the WWAMI region for twenty medical students.

The number of clinical sites and elective clerkships must continue to expand to meet the demand for more of the WWAMI students, including the twenty medical students in Pullman, to complete their medical education in Spokane and Eastern Washington. Accordingly, the UW budget request focuses on permanent funds beginning in Fiscal Year 2012 to continue the development and expansion of clinical clerkships (3rd and 4th years) for students completing their required and elective clerkships in Spokane and Eastern Washington.

Consistent with University Strategic Planning.

Expanded state support for enrollment in areas of critical state need is integral to every part of the vision and values that reflect the strategic priorities of the University of Washington and Washington State University. The expansion of medical education in Spokane is consistent with WSU's plan to expand its health science campus in cooperation with UW and Eastern Washington University. This request is consistent with the resolution passed by the WSU Board of Regents confirming WSU Spokane as the University's health science campus.

Addresses Priorities of Government.

The significant physician workforce shortage in Eastern Washington is worsening and is especially acute in rural areas in the primary care specialties. Studies clearly indicate that by receiving medical school and residency training in an area provides the greatest likelihood for a physician to practice in an area.

Specifically, it addresses these state priorities:

1. **Student Achievement:** Provide convenient & efficient post secondary education. Medical students can continue their 2nd year of undergraduate medical education in Spokane and Eastern Washington. This, along with the expanded clerkships and graduate medical that are the focus of the joint request from UWSOM, will allow all four years of undergraduate medical education, followed by graduate medical education, to be offered in Spokane and Eastern Washington.

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2. Health: Provide access to appropriate health care. Increase the number of practicing physicians in Spokane and Eastern Washington.
3. Economic Development: Promote economic development by increasing the number of physicians in the workforce in Spokane and Eastern Washington. When fully realized, the Academic Health Sciences Center at Riverpoint – for which this funding is a critical step – is estimated by Tripp-Umbach (the leading firm in assessing the community and economic impact of medical and health sciences education) to yield \$2.1B in statewide economic impact by 2030, with \$1.6B of that in Spokane and Eastern Washington.

Alternatives to this request.

An alternative explored a few years ago was the option of establishing a new medical school in Eastern Washington, but the costs were significant. For example, Florida State University in Tallahassee spent about \$155 million in start-up costs when it developed a four-year medical school in 2000. The alternative chosen is much more cost-efficient and will produce the expected outcome of additional physicians practicing in Spokane and Eastern Washington.

Consequences of not funding the package.

Failure to fund this request will result in a significant delay in the expansion of medical education and services in Eastern Washington. Spokane and Eastern Washington currently have significant shortages of physicians, and projections indicate that this situation will worsen dramatically in the next ten to twenty years. Without additional UME and GME in Spokane and Eastern Washington, these shortages will intensify. Together with the coordinated request from the UWSOM this funding is critical for staying on the timeline we need to expand UME and GME in Spokane and Eastern Washington in order to address the regional physician workforce shortage in a timely fashion.

Capital Budget Implications.

Part of the Riverpoint Biomedical and Health Sciences Building will provide the classroom space for future increases in medical education in Spokane that are consistent with the program that this budget request supports. The building is the number one capital construction priority for WSU, ranking projects throughout its system and from all campuses. The building will allow for up to 250 medical students to attend classes on the Spokane campus, and a capacity to graduate up to 120 more doctors per year with degrees from the UW School of Medicine. The building will also provide capacity to accommodate up to 200 WSU pharmacy students with up to 100 WSU pharmacy students graduating from the Spokane campus each year. The building houses 6,000 net square feet of anatomy labs. These labs are critical for medical education as well as for Eastern Washington University's physical therapy and occupational therapy programs. Research labs will provide space for faculty who teach these students to conduct the critical

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biomedical research that will help drive the economic development of the region and improve the health of our citizens.

Calculations:

FISCAL DETAIL TABLES - WWAMI EXPANSION					
	2011-12		2012-13		2011-13
By Program	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Biennium
Instruction	0.8	\$ 178,000	2.9	\$ 356,000	\$ 534,000
Research					-
Public Service					-
Primary Support	0.1	6,000	0.1	11,000	17,000
Libraries		2,000		4,000	6,000
Student Services		-		-	-
Institutional Support	0.1	6,000	0.1	12,000	18,000
Plant Operations & Maintenance		8,000	0.1	17,000	25,000
Total	1.0	\$ 200,000	3.2	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000
	2011-12		2012-13		2011-13
By Object	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Biennium
Salaries					
Faculty	0.3	37,000	0.9	171,000	208,000
A/P	0.1	6,000	1.1	64,000	70,000
TA/GA					-
Classified	0.6	21,000	1.2	41,000	62,000
Benefits		21,000		94,000	115,000
Goods/Services		95,000		22,000	117,000
Travel		20,000		8,000	28,000
Equipment					-
Total	1.0	\$ 200,000	3.2	\$ 400,000	\$ 600,000