

WSU 2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Washington State University is the state of Washington's land-grant research university. Through its four physical campuses and online Global Campus, four research centers, Extension centers, and a growing presence in Everett, WSU is active in all 39 counties where it delivers a public mission of research, education, and core services that benefit Washingtonians in their communities every day.

Designated by the Carnegie Foundation as a "highest research activity" university, and rated in the top 11% of research institutions nationally, WSU's extends practical research and education to grow the state's economy, support existing industries and workforce needs, and provide services for the changing face of Washington's student body. WSU's 2017 federal agenda supports policies and funding that will help the university deliver on its land grant mission.

As a new U.S. presidential administration sets its agenda and appoints more than 3500 political appointees, WSU will look for opportunities to support the agenda through advancing relationships with key appointees and targeted federal agencies. WSU aims to highlight the expertise of its faculty, staff and researchers to build on the continued success of the university. In response to a new Congress, WSU will establish relationships with members and staff on key committees outside of our delegation to further implement our land-grant mission in service to people of Washington State.

WSU BY THE NUMBERS

RESEARCH

- One of 115 preeminent universities ranked as "very high research activity" by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching
- Delivered \$3.4 billion in economic impact to the state of Washington (FY 2014)
- Significant federal funding for research, \$135 million in federal expenditures; \$333 million in research and development expenditures (2015)
- From 2011 to 2015: active inventions increased from 148 to 232; licenses issued increase from 15 to 55; number of startups increased from 3 to 9; and invention disclosures almost doubled from 61 to 113
- Funding projects in support of five trans-disciplinary research themes capturing research expertise to help solve complex societal challenges:
 - » Sustaining Health: the uncompromising pursuit of healthier people and communities
 - » Sustaining Resources: food, energy, and water
 - » Advancing Opportunity and Equity
 - » Improving Quality of Life through Smart Systems
 - » Fundamental research in support of National Security

EDUCATION

- Enrollment: 27,344 full time equivalents
- Tuition and fees: \$11,041 for resident undergraduate
- Average undergraduate debt for those with debt: \$22,924
- 60.3 percent of undergraduates graduate with debt
- 27.8 percent of undergraduates pay no tuition
- 34.2 percent of undergraduates pay full tuition
- 84.5 percent of undergraduates are Washington residents
- 28.9 percent are students of color including 35.7 percent of freshmen
- 32 percent of undergraduates are Pell Grant eligible
- 37.6 percent of freshmen are first generation students
- 72.3 percent of transfer applicants are offered admission
- Average time to degree: 4.2 years for first-time full-time freshmen

2017 Research Priorities for Federal Engagement

INVEST IN SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE EFFORTS AS OUTLINED IN THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATTING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANT BACTERIA

The Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health (“Allen School”) provides innovative solutions through research, education, global outreach and application of disease control based on the interactions between humans and animals. One of the many challenges motivating the Allen School’s research is eliminating antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance is a complex national and international challenge which is not only a domestic health care issue, but also impacts national security. This is due in part to CDC reporting that approximately two million illnesses and twenty-three thousand deaths are caused annually by antibiotic-resistant bacterium in the United States alone.

Based on these ongoing - if not escalating threats - WSU anticipates the federal government and the State’s congressional delegation will continue to support efforts to address antibiotic resistant bacteria in fiscal year 2018.

In early 2016, WSU’s Allen School helped form and is one of the leaders of the Washington State Global Health Consortium. The consortium includes other higher education institutions, hospitals, and global health groups, along with thought leaders who are working collectively to positively impact federal policies addressing the global health risks associated with antibiotic resistance.

The focus of the efforts currently includes science-based activities to improve incident surveillance and tracking the pathways of antimicrobial resistant bacteria back to the U.S. These activities will strengthen national One-Health surveillance efforts to combat resistance and improve international collaboration while increasing capacities for antibiotic resistance prevention, surveillance, control, and domestic antibiotic research and development.

The consortium is actively educating members of Congress and cultivating support from key members of Washington State’s congressional delegation to create a competitive federal program aimed at advancing the consortium’s expertise in antibiotic resistance.

SUPPORT CREATION OF REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT WSU'S PUYALLUP RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

WSU’s Puyallup Research and Extension Center is a leader in storm water research and home to the Washington Stormwater Center (WSC). The WSC is funded through the State Department of Ecology with competitive funds going directly to the City of Puyallup and its two primary associates: Washington State University and the University of Washington.

WSC research includes further development and promotion of the use of innovative technology and best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate the impacts of polluted non-point source stormwater on water quality and its deleterious effects on aquatic species.

Continued research in effective stormwater mitigations is needed given the human population and industrial growth in the greater Puget Sound region and its impacts on estuary ecosystems, aquatic health, industry and coastal communities. Through collaborative efforts like the WSC, WSU advances ongoing partnerships with local and state governments, environmental groups and industry to protect water quality in the Puget Sound, strengthen stakeholder engagement and deliver translational research-based solutions that address stormwater pollution.

WSU will work with the state’s congressional delegation to find the appropriate legislative vehicle to increase the research and civic engagement activities of the WSC. In addition, WSU will work with appropriate federal agencies to ensure that WSU’s stormwater programs receive official federal government designation as a Center of Excellence, resulting in increased eligibility for federal funding.

INVEST IN INNOVATIVE LAB SPACE FOR AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

WSU’s partnership with the federal government in supporting the Washington agriculture industry makes the state of Washington one of the most successful agriculture enterprises in the world. Specifically, WSU works closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) to conduct and apply research-based information that benefits crop production and protection, livestock protection, antimicrobial resistance and environmental stewardship.

WSU will work closely with ARS to fulfill the commitment of a proposed ARS Biosciences Building with the Research and Education complex on the WSU campus in Pullman. This building will provide lab and office space for the research work done with ARS and WSU staff, faculty and students. WSU will continue its world-class research on crop and soil sciences, plant pathology, wheat genetics, among other research initiatives at this facility.

2017 Education Priorities for Federal Engagement

EXTEND AND REAUTHORIZE THE FEDERAL PELL GRANT PROGRAM IN ITS CURRENT FUNDING STRUCTURE, AND PROVIDE FLEXIBLE USAGE FOR YEAR ROUND ENROLLMENT

The Federal Pell Grant Program is the largest federal source of college aid. The program is instrumental in providing college access and affordability that WSU strives to offer its more than 23,000 undergraduate students.

The Federal Pell Grant program provides need-based grants to financially disadvantaged students from diverse backgrounds. Currently, 35 percent of enrolled students (10,382) at WSU are Pell Grant eligible. Increasing the total maximum Pell Grant yearly award to \$5,935 per student is critical to support student success and maintain access to higher education for thousands of students across Washington State. This will provide WSU students the opportunity to attain the education and experience required to meet the region's and nation's workforce demands.

Pell Grants provide stable, consistent funding for our high need and non-traditional students i.e., delayed enrollment into postsecondary education, attends college part-time, works full time, is financially independent for financial aid purposes, has dependents other than a spouse, is a single parent.

IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE CAMPUS POLICIES, FUND SAFETY PROGRAMS, REDUCE REGULATORY CONFLICT TO ADDRESS CAMPUS SAFETY AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

WSU is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. As part of this commitment, the university has prepared and made available university policies, procedures, statistics and information relating to campus safety, emergency management and the health and welfare of the campus community. This includes student standards and conduct policies, mental health and counseling services, safety and security policies/procedures for University housing, harassment policies, and sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking policies.

Sexual violence, in particular, requires a redoubling of effort in order to reduce the incidences on college campuses. At WSU, student survey data produced by the National College Health Assessment from the 2015-2016 school year indicates that nearly 12.5 percent of undergraduate students (27 percent of females and 8.6 percent of males) had experienced some form of interpersonal violence (sexual assault, dating violence, stalking) in the previous twelve months. This is unacceptable.

To increase campus safety, WSU is engaged in focused effort across four main areas to further improve its efforts to reduce sexual violence, including: 1) improved education and communication regarding acceptable standards and conduct, 2) increased focus on prevention and intervention, 3) an enhanced reporting and response infrastructure that will provide victims with safe and reliable options for ensuring their needs are met, and 4) deeper collaboration with area nonprofits and law enforcement to ensure the university is engaging in best practices in confronting and reducing sexual violence on its campuses.

WSU recognizes that the best way to increase safety on its campuses is to engage directly with our students and community stakeholders in this process. Our student body has created a program called "*It's on Cougs*" led by students to encourage bystander intervention. The program includes trainings, workshops, and social media campaigns detailing ways to engage in campus safety.

WSU will continue to collaborate with its federal delegation to ensure that its efforts are included in any legislative vehicle that is considered. In addition, WSU will work with the delegation to lay out the steps it has taken to successfully be removed from the Department of Education's list of Higher Education with open Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations.

WSU will continue to work with policy makers so that higher education institutions can ensure both effective and practical implementation of sexual assault policies on campus. This includes providing the Department of Education the resources necessary to implement the programs and streamline conflicting regulations including the Violence Against Women Act, Clery Act and Title IX of the Higher Education Act.

PROVIDE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS AT ELSON S. FLOYD COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

In October 2016, WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine received preliminary accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the governing body for medical schools in the

U.S. The college is dedicated to recruiting students and offering a curriculum to help address physician shortages in medically underserved areas in the state of Washington. WSU has set tuition for attending ESF COM at a level specifically to help keep the costs of medical education affordable for students.

Student debt is a significant issue for medical students and the ESF COM is keeping its tuition lower than national averages and offering scholarships while providing quality student services to ensure students graduate with as little debt as possible. This is due in part to WSU's commitment to recruit and admit students from communities with less than 25,000 people, students from communities underrepresented in medicine (Native Americans, Hispanics, etc.) reflecting communities that need to be served, and first generation professional students. In turn, these students are more likely, particularly if they have GME opportunities in the state of Washington, to practice in the communities where they enjoyed their seven to nine years of medical school experiences.

To ensure the success of its students and to address physician shortages in underserved areas and challenging health care environments, WSU will work with the congressional delegation to support funding opportunities to expand graduate medical education, which is currently capped by the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999. WSU will work with its partners to preserve and enhance community-based GME funding, currently provided through the HRSA Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program, and to restore the current funding to the authorized level of \$150,000 per resident per year.