

WSU 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Washington State University is the State of Washington's land-grant research university. Through its five campuses and the online global campus, four research centers and WSU Extension, WSU is located in all 39 counties where it delivers a public mission of research, education, and core services that benefit Washingtonians in their communities every day. As a Tier One federal research university, rated in the top 11% of research institutions nationally, WSU's mission is to drive practical research and education into our communities to support and grow the state's economy.

WSU's 2018 federal agenda is committed to supporting policies, funding, and sponsor collaboration and partnership that will help the University deliver translational research and quality undergraduate and graduate education in support of:

- Driving long-term economic growth for the Pacific Northwest by collaborating with research sponsors and providing a return on investment from our federal partners
- Existing and new industries and workforce needs
- Services for the changing face of Washington's student body

Federal Legislative Priorities

FARM BILL

Since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the United States addresses agricultural and food policy through a variety of programs that include commodity support, research, trade, nutrition assistance, and conservation under a comprehensive "farm bill." The farm bill expires and is reauthorized every five years. Congress proposes, debates and passes the final farm bill, which is then reviewed and gains executive approval and signed into law by the President.

The current farm bill, *The Agricultural Act of 2014*, was signed into law on February 7, 2014. It is not unlikely that similar to 2013, the current farm bill may expire before it is reauthorized because of issues around funding levels and the nutrition programs.

The farm bill is the foundation for Washington State University's agriculture research and the collaboration WSU does to support its stakeholders as a part of its land-grant mission, including extending research and intellectual services. Indeed, WSU's long and fruitful partnership with agriculture stakeholders has made the state of Washington one of the largest, most diverse and economically successful agriculture enterprises in the world.

WSU will collaborate with the Washington State Department of Agriculture and our agricultural stakeholders to help inform congressional members about what are the policy and funding underpinnings for the farm bill, including:

- Ensuring that nutritious food is available for all Washingtonians;
- Promoting viable and sustainable rural communities;
- Preventing or controlling human, animal and plant diseases;
- Fostering innovation and sound resource management practices in agriculture, and
- Strengthening the economic vitality of the state's agriculture industry and its economic, social, and community well-being.

Together, we will work closely with members of the state's congressional delegation and leadership in the Committees of jurisdiction, to highlight the importance and socio-economic value of agriculture to our state's rural communities, the many consumers of locally grown crops, and the economic impact of agriculture on our state's trade economy.

In order to highlight this value, the Office of Government Relations and External Affairs will organize and implement a "Washington Agriculture Week in Washington, D.C." to showcase the connection between agriculture and the bounty of food and liquid arts products that are supported by WSU academic and research programs and Extension services. WSU will coordinate and collaborate with the state's agriculture stakeholders to highlight the important role of research to the farm, to the plate, and in the production of the over 300 crops grown in the state that nourish our bodies, culture, economy, and the world. The week will actively demonstrate the importance of a reauthorized farm bill that will positively

WSU BY THE NUMBERS

- Enrollment: 27,908 full time equivalents
- Tuition and fees: \$11,391 for resident undergraduate
- Average undergraduate debt for those with debt: \$22,924 (FY16)
- 56.3 percent of undergrads graduate with debt (FY16)
- 28 percent of undergraduates pay no tuition (FY16)
- 34 percent of undergraduates pay full tuition (FY16)
- 83.4 percent of undergraduates are Washington residents
- 29.1 percent are students of color including 33.3 percent of freshmen
- 32 percent of undergraduates are Pell Grant eligible (FY16)
- 37.3 percent of freshmen are first generation students
- 72.2 percent of transfer applicants are offered admission
- Average time to degree: 4.2 years for first-time full-time freshmen (FY16)
- One of 115 preeminent universities ranked as "very high research activity" by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching
- Significant federal funding for research, \$135 million in expenditures; \$333 million in research and development expenditures (FY 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.

impact the state's agriculture and trade economy while embracing the vital role food plays in everyone's daily life.

In addition, WSU will actively engage in the specific rural development title of the farm bill to help focus on economic development initiatives around the state. This will include supporting expansion of rural broadband education and use, particularly in digitally underserved areas of the state of Washington. This effort will support expansion of the use of telemedicine and educational programming through the WSU Global Campus.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Since the original Higher Education Act (HEA) was created in 1965, the overarching law governing federal higher education programs has been rewritten eight times. The current HEA was set to expire at the end of 2013, but has been extended through 2017 while Congress works on the next reauthorization.

Among the issues that likely will be included in the final reauthorization HEA bill are college affordability and costs; access, persistence and completion of college degree programs; improved information for consumers seeking college degrees; student loan programs; college and university accreditation and oversight; academic innovation; and the burden of federal regulations to degree granting institutions.

WSU will work with the state's congressional delegation, including members who serve in leadership roles on key committees and within respective Senate and House caucuses, to focus on college access and affordability and serve the needs of students, families, and educators. This includes support for year-round application of federal Pell grants. The Pell Grant program is generally considered the foundation of a student's financial aid package, and is the largest federal source of aid that supports college access and affordability. More than 32 percent of WSU students receive Pell Grant support. WSU remains steadfast in advocating for the merits and success of the federal Pell Grant.

WSU will also focus on reinstating the expired federal Perkins Loan program and have urged the state's congressional delegation to support legislation expanding the program through 2019. The Perkins loan program is essential for many WSU students as it provides low interest loans to help finance the costs of postsecondary education.

WSU is committed to enhancing the safety and security of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors and will continue to collaborate with the state's congressional delegation to support laws that best serve the campus community, promote and sustain a safe environment and effectively respond to campus incidents. Specifically, WSU will continue to work with policy makers and other higher education institutions to ensure effective and practical implementation of sexual assault policies on campus. This includes providing the U.S. Department of Education the resources necessary to implement the programs and streamline conflicting regulations under the Violence Against Women Act, Clery Act, and Title IX of the Higher Education Act.

PNNL:

WSU's Federal Relations office will work closely with the Office of Research to develop and implement strategies on how to best grow and fund the partnership between WSU and the Pacific Northwest National Lab and related partners in support of research and academic collaboration. This will include

developing and coordinating in expanding the existing statewide science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pipeline and related academic programming and supporting shared research agendas within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

WSU will also continue to be responsive to the state's congressional delegation's DOE policy and funding priorities and match WSU academic programming and research expertise in its support. Specifically, WSU will highlight this working partnership to DOE leadership by demonstrating positive contributions to the energy programs within DOE's Office of Science, Office of Electricity and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of Electricity and DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration. WSU will also actively communicate its research expertise in alignment with the Administration's priorities in nuclear science and safety and energy grid and workforce development

FEDERAL RESEARCH DOLLARS:

The WSU Office of Federal Relations and Office of Research will expand its reach within targeted federal agencies through partnering with experts in the federal space to build relationships with, and secure strategic funding opportunities for WSU faculty within the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the Department of Energy. Specifically, WSU will work in tandem with CGA to engage DOD officials, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate armed services committees and defense appropriations committees, within the individual military services, and the many operating agencies for seeking opportunities that will meet the needs of the agencies and support the institution's federal research efforts in these agencies.

AMR:

WSU's Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health ("Allen School") provides innovative solutions through research, education, global outreach and application of disease control through the animal and human interaction. One of the many challenges motivating the Allen School's vision is eliminating antibiotic resistant bacteria, which is a complex national and international problem. The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently reported that approximately two million illnesses and 23,000 deaths are caused annually by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the U.S. alone.

WSU's Allen School is actively collaborating with the CDC and the state's congressional delegation to support 2019 funding for surveillance and science operations that help implement activities consistent with the CDC's Global Health Security Agenda and the National Strategy to Combat Antibiotic Resistance. This includes goals to strengthen national One-Health surveillance efforts spanning human, animal, agricultural, food and environmental aspects to combat resistance and improve international collaboration, and increase capacities for antibiotic resistance prevention, surveillance, control, and antibiotic research and development.

WSU will also continue to collaborate with its partners in the Washington State Global Health Consortium to inform federal policies addressing the global health risks associated with antibiotic resistance. The group will also cultivate support from key members of the state's congressional delegation to continue funding antimicrobial resistance efforts within the CDC and expand possible opportunities within DOD.