

# WSU 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Established in 1890 as the state's land grant research university, Washington State University provides service to all Washingtonians through education, research and public service. For the first time, the university's headcount enrollment tops 30,000 by producing degrees at campuses in Pullman, Vancouver, Spokane, Tri-Cities and Everett and at satellite programs in Walla Walla, Yakima and Bremerton. Pioneers in online education, WSU's Global Campus serves students worldwide. With the objective to become a top 25 public research university, WSU already is a top tier, highly ranked research institution with research priorities around sustaining health, sustaining resources, advancing opportunity and equity, improving quality of life through smart systems, and national security.

## Legislative Priorities

### TOP PRIORITY: CAPITAL BUDGET

WSU supports the capital budget agreement reached by legislative leaders during the 2017 session. The agreement contains critical investments to help the university meet the modern needs of plant and animal agriculture by replacing and repurposing aging and undersized facilities on the Pullman campus. Construction of the Plant Sciences Building will help researchers more quickly produce new plant varieties that ward off disease and enhance quality to bolster competitiveness of Washington grown crops.

Partial construction of the Global Animal Health Phase II project will enhance accreditation prospects for the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab and its efforts to combat foreign animal diseases, zoonotic diseases and food-borne illness.

The capital budget agreement also advances projects that will help WSU accommodate growth on its Tri-Cities and Vancouver campuses. Among other investments, the capital budget agreement also would help WSU preserve existing facilities through priority preservation, preventative maintenance and building infrastructure projects.

### FUNDING THE STATE'S NEW SOLAR PROGRAM

The Legislature late in its third special session of 2017 approved Senate Bill 5939, directing the WSU Energy Program to launch and administer a new renewable energy incentive program.

However, the bill was not funded in the biennial operating budget which already had been voted on. WSU is requesting \$1.272 million in the state's 2018 supplemental operating budget to fund this program, which the university is now by law required to administer.

### ADVANCING MATERIALS RESEARCH THROUGH JCDREAM

The Joint Center for the Deployment and Research in Earth Abundant Materials was established by the Legislature in 2015 as an advanced materials research collaborative between WSU, the University of Washington and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Its mission is to research alternatives to mining in developing countries for rare elements used to manufacture everyday devices such as cell phones, laptop computers, batteries and structural components in transportation technologies.

While capital budget funds were provided and leveraged to purchase unique research equipment, operating funds are needed to hire a full-time director. WSU is requesting \$500,000 in the 2018 supplemental operating budget to hire a full-time director who would manage the operations of the center, coordinate and conduct research and pursue extramural research funds. It also would fund an administrative assistant, a research technician and a competitive grants program.

### FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY NETWORK

The Family Medicine Residency Network was established by the Legislature in 1975 to support family medicine residencies in the state and encourage the development of new ones. In 2015 the Legislature bolstered funding for the effort and updated the statute to involve the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences and any newly accredited medical school. It also established an advisory board to recommend where affiliated residency programs will exist.

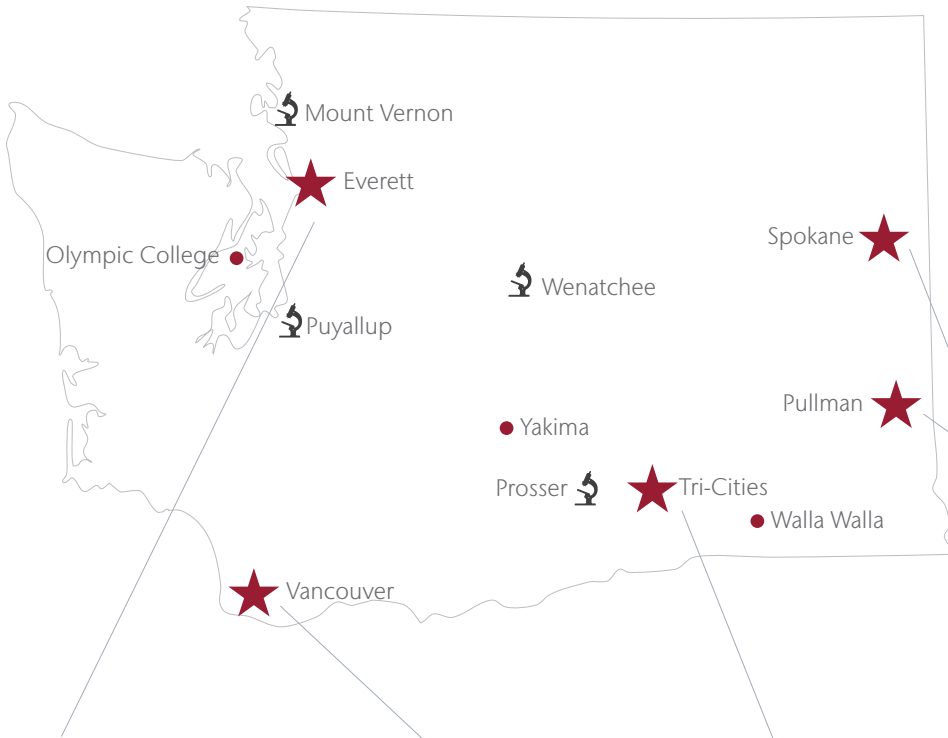
WSU will be pursuing legislation in 2018 to refine the statute further to call out the university's newly accredited Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and add a representative to the advisory board as a co-chair with UW Medicine and PNWU.

### WSU BY THE NUMBERS

- Enrollment: 27,908 full-time equivalents
- Tuition and fees: \$11,391 for resident undergraduates
- Average undergraduate debt for those with debt: \$25,951
- 57 percent of undergraduates graduate with debt
- 27 percent of undergraduates pay no tuition
- 33 percent of undergraduates pay full tuition
- 83.4 percent of undergraduates are Washington residents
- 29.1 percent are students of color including 33.3 percent of freshmen
- 33 percent of undergraduates are Pell Grant eligible
- 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
- 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 (FY14)

**WSU: SERVICE TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

WSU’s assets enable the university to provide quality education, deliver research, and extend knowledge and expertise to support the state’s major industries and its communities. WSU’s legislative agenda supports the educational, research and service needs of WSU’s major campuses located in Pullman, Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-Cities, and Everett and the students enrolled through the Global Campus.



**WSU Extension** broadens the reach of the university into every county in Washington including four research and extension centers located in **Mount Vernon, Puyallup, Prosser, and Wenatchee**. Integral to WSU’s mission as a land grant university, Extension advances the knowledge, economic development, and quality of life of Washington residents by developing and delivering programs through learner-centered, research-based education.

**WSU Pullman** is the main campus and home to eight colleges serving the university system. The largest campus, WSU Pullman has an enrollment of over 20,000 students.

Northwestern Washington is served by **WSU Everett** and the engineering program located at Olympic College. These programs are expanding access to four year degrees in high demand STEM-based fields of study. The primary areas of focus are educational and research programs that support advanced manufacturing, medical education, and agriculture.

**WSU Vancouver** serves Southwestern Washington, a rapidly growing and important region to the state’s overall economy. WSU Vancouver’s educational and research focus serves the high-tech sector and growing biotech and life sciences industries, helping to keep the region competitive through workforce development and translational research. The campus offers degrees in arts and sciences, education, business, engineering, neurosciences, and nursing.

**WSU Tri-Cities** serves South-central Washington and offers degrees in arts and sciences, business, education, engineering & applied sciences, nursing, and wine science. The campus supports workforce training and collaborative research that feeds the economic strengths of the region including R&D, technology, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and healthcare. In addition, the region is served by WSU College of Nursing with degree programs offered in Walla Walla and Yakima. The WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research & Extension Center, located in Prosser, serves one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation for wine grapes, tree fruit, and other commercial crops.

**WSU Spokane** is home to the WSU Health Sciences campus and the colleges of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. The campus offers degrees in nursing, medicine, pharmacy, speech & hearing, health policy & administration, nutrition/exercise, criminal justice, and education. The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine and the Spokane Teaching Health Center support Spokane’s regional role in providing health care services and research for much of Eastern Washington.