To further Washington State University’s (WSU) efforts under the Drive to 25 and to promote transparency and accountability around WSU’s federal policy and advocacy program, we are providing you with an overview of the Office of Federal Relations (OFR) and a framework of engagement for your reference with respect to working with OFR.

WSU’s Office of Federal Relations is led by Glynda Becker-Fenter, based in Washington, D.C. and located in the Hall of the States Office Building, walking distance to the U.S. Capitol. Glynda is supported by Cat Amortegui, Policy Coordinator for the Office of Federal Relations. Cat is based in Pullman and co-located with the Office of Research (OR). OFR focuses its work primarily on (1) the federal delegation, including all ten congressional members and both senators, (2) and the administration and federal agencies. OFR works both offensively to create opportunities, and defensively to protect programs and funding.

OFR’s goal is to leverage WSU research expertise and educational goals with political opportunities, in partnership with our delegation, to meet WSU’s land-grant mission. OFR’s objectives in meeting this goal are:

- to significantly increase WSU’s visibility, relationships, and influence with the federal government to support Drive to 25 goals around research expenditures and educational opportunity;
- to participate in shaping federal public policy in WSU’s areas of expertise; and
- to represent and serve WSU faculty, staff and students in Washington D.C.

To meet those objectives, we focus on six specific areas of work:
1. Development of an annual *federal legislative agenda*
2. Advocacy and engagement around *reauthorization* of federal programs that affect WSU research and students
3. Programmatic requests: annual *support for funding federal programs* that support WSU research and students
4. Targeted agency engagement: working with consultants to *develop agency white papers* specific to supporting federally funded research at WSU
5. *Coalition-based advocacy: initiatives* for large scale federal requests and creation of new programs
6. *Strategically supporting* WSU faculty, students and staff in facilitating visits to Washington, D.C. and federal engagement

Your participation is an important aspect of WSU’s federal advocacy efforts!
1. DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WSU’s federal legislative agenda supports funding, collaboration and partnerships that deliver research and education opportunities to WSU in support of our mission. This is the primary communication document for WSU with the federal government. Development of the WSU federal legislative agenda is done in collaboration with the Provost, the Office of Research, and the Budget Office with final approval by the President.

The annual WSU federal legislative agenda is premised on efforts that will:

- drive long-term economic growth for the Pacific Northwest by collaborating with research sponsors and providing a return on investment from our federal partners;
- support existing and new industries and workforce needs;
- engage in solving the state of Washington’s public policy or societal challenges;
- serve the changing face of Washington’s student body.

As the organizing document for WSU with the federal government, the federal legislative agenda addresses both issues for which we are advocating and, when appropriate, those to which we are reacting. In general, the agenda will include our position on reauthorizations bills, some targeted agency requests, and coalition-based advocacy projects under WSU’s research and education priorities. These are outlined below.

2. REAUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION

Two of Congress’s primary responsibilities are to create new and to modify or update current federal programs through the authorization or reauthorization process. These programs are then funded through the appropriations and budget process. Many authorization bills have specific dates on which the various programs important to WSU expire. This process provides opportunities to both support the reauthorization and to potentially amend or create new programs within the reauthorization legislation.

Examples of these legislatively authorized programs include, but are not limited to:

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<td>USDA</td>
<td>The Farm Bill</td>
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<td>Department of Education</td>
<td>Higher Education Act Reauthorization</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Federal Aviation Administration</td>
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<td>Health and Human Services</td>
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For each biennial Congress, OFR reviews bills up for reauthorization, exploring opportunities for WSU engagement. In regards to reauthorization legislation which has a significant impact on WSU, an internal process is undertaken which involves convening appropriate deans, chancellors, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Research and key faculty members for policy input and strategy development. For example, the WSU 2018 Farm Bill process was convened jointly with CAHNRS, OR, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture with a coordinated advocacy and stakeholder engagement strategy.

OFR also identifies items within those authorization bills that highlight WSU’s areas of expertise to determine funding opportunities, and to support the congressional delegation. For example, in the area of rural broadband, OFR worked closely with experts within CAHNRS and Extension to engage with the delegation and federal agencies, including USDA Rural Development and the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications Information Administration. This is now an ongoing initiative that touches multiple areas of the university.

3. TARGETED AGENCY WHITEPAPERS

In partnership with the Office of Research, OFR has initiated a process through which faculty submit whitepapers detailing their research in hopes of securing funding from within the federal government. These documents are reviewed by both OFR and OR offices and by external reviewers, consultants retained by the Office of External Affairs and Government Relations (EAGR). The whitepapers are used to engage with programmatic staff within strategically targeted federal agencies. These papers may also be used to build a case to support federal funding with committee staff and members of the Washington congressional delegation.

Please see the OFR calendar for the targeted agency whitepaper timeline.

4. COALITION BASED ADVOCACY PROJECTS

EAGR operates “public relations style” government relations programs across both the Offices of Federal and State Relations. For OFR, this is largely coalition-based advocacy that supports specific initiatives around WSU research strengths. By using a “campaign-style” structure, EAGR identifies strategic partners that include internal WSU constituents and partners; industry and stakeholder partners, both in-state and out-of-state; and other public and nonprofit partners to support coordinated advocacy. Such coordinated advocacy also includes public relations and strategic communications strategies to support objectives in meeting goals in WSU’s mission. This includes anything from “boots on the ground” door to door advocacy both in-state and on
Capitol Hill to support or defend our work, using the media to jointly communicate the benefits of our work, and engaging with other coalitions and organizations to highlight our work.

In doing this kind of work, OFR, together with the colleges, has created new coalitions and utilized organizations in which we are members--such as The Science Coalition, the Energy Security Coalition, or APLU--to drive a policy goal through the political process. Examples include op-eds highlighting the importance of federal funding to support research, letters to the editor, participation in roundtable discussions, social media and advertisements highlighting our work in the federal arena. This tactic expands support for WSU and solidifies existing partnerships with our stakeholders. It is a critical tactic in meeting Drive to 25 goals.

To determine those projects appropriate for coalition-based advocacy, EAGR and OFR will assess them to determine if they fall within the context of (1) areas of research excellence, (2) in-state stakeholders and partners, and (3) political opportunity. When these elements are in place, EAGR will initiate a process with the appropriate dean, chancellor and the Office of Research to further define the initiative. We work with external consultants to support these projects.

Examples of this type of advocacy include ASCENT and the creation of the Northwest Antimicrobial Resistance Coalition—both successful in creating new funding programs with federal partners, shaping federal policy based on WSU expertise and creating the opportunity for WSU leadership, faculty and staff to be seen as thought leaders in their fields.

5. PROGRAMMATIC REQUESTS

WSU annually submits information to members of Washington’s congressional delegation in support of funding for programs in which we (1) compete for federal dollars or (2) can impact federal funding through the annual appropriations process. This includes both research funding opportunities and programs that support our students. To support our goal of collaborative engagement with our stakeholders, there are many instances in which we share our requests with key in-state partners such as the Washington Global Health Alliance or Farm Bureau, and with appropriate national associations, such as APLU.

*Please see the OFR programmatic requests calendar for the FY 2020 timeline.*
6. **WSU FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA**

Whether it’s WSU students, leadership, faculty or staff from any one of the university’s six campuses, the OFR is the office coordinating strategic engagement with Capitol Hill, federal agencies, the White House, and D.C. area stakeholders.

OFR engages with student groups from Pullman, Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-Cities and Everett to provide them with opportunities within the policy, political and alumni experience when visiting the D.C. area. Examples of such opportunities include meetings with the congressional delegation, representatives of Republican and Democratic political organizations, and with White House and committee staff. Strategically engaging students with various D.C. stakeholders has led to many WSU students participating in internships and employment opportunities in the nation’s capital.

OFR also works with leadership, faculty and staff to engage with congressional, administration and stakeholder groups in Washington, D.C. When deans, chancellors or members of University Council come to D.C., OFR works with them to ensure their time is well spent: strategically engaging based on their agenda and the agenda of federal policy partners.

If you have any questions, please reach out directly to Glynda at glynda.becker@wsu.edu, 202-434-4866.