



# WSU 2021 FEDERAL AGENDA

Washington State University is the state of Washington’s land-grant research university. Located in all 39 counties, the WSU system includes six campuses, four research centers, and WSU Extension, with one cohesive public mission: to deliver exemplary 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 is a state leader advancing practical research and education into our communities to support and grow the state’s economy and workforce.

The WSU federal agenda for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress is committed to supporting policies, federal funding opportunities, and collaboration and partnerships that address **equity, access and innovation**. WSU will continue to deliver translational research and quality undergraduate and graduate education as the state and the nation move out of the current pandemic environment, focusing on the following areas:

- Solving short term COVID-era challenges with long term solutions to accelerate equity, access and opportunities for the WSU community.
- Promoting collaboration to drive regional economic growth and opportunity for the Pacific Northwest through working with stakeholders across the state and fostering growth in new technologies and innovation.
- Planning beyond the pandemic to support continued growth of WSU’s Health Sciences programs across the system statewide.

## 2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

### CONTINUED SUPPORT OF COVID-19 DISASTER RELIEF FOR WSU AND STAKEHOLDER PARTNERS

As the country continues to grapple with impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress will continue to invest in the health, wellbeing and recovery of the country. **WSU’s number one priority for this Congress is ensuring that the needs of WSU students, faculty, and staff, as well as institutional, community, and state needs, are being met through advocating for federal support.**

The most immediate effects of COVID-19 to the WSU system are the **additional costs incurred in moving instruction online coupled with the new costs of doing business**, including establishing the infrastructure for student, faculty, and staff testing. WSU has incurred these costs, while at the same time losing substantial auxiliary revenues due to housing and dining losses.

WSU is committed to working with our community partners to protect the public health of our students and our community members in Whitman County, particularly as we implement new testing systems. WSU supports our community partners in requesting financial support of these efforts.

WSU students, faculty and staff face a range of further challenges that are unique to each campus across the state. WSU advocates for support for our students and the institution systemwide.

### WSU BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment: **31,159** total head count

Tuition and fees: **\$12,170** for resident undergrads

Average undergrad debt for those with debt: **\$26,576**

**56 percent** of undergrads graduate with debt

**29 percent** of undergrads pay no tuition

**29 percent** of undergrads pay full tuition

**81.3 percent** of undergrads are Washington residents

**31.5 percent** are students of color including **36.5 percent** of freshmen

**28.3 percent** of undergrads are Pell Grant eligible

**36.6 percent** of freshmen are first generation students

**76.1 percent** of transfer applicants are offered admission

Average time to degree: **4.2 years** for first-time full-time freshmen



## ACCESS TO EDUCATION THROUGH BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the fact that the nation's public and private sector telecommunications infrastructure is not adequate to facilitate online learning, remote working, and telemedicine in rural, tribal, and underserved urban areas. **WSU supports developing a U.S. broadband infrastructure funding program** built on two core principles:

- (1) Providing for open access public networks leveraging public-private partnerships
- (2) Providing safeguards to protect private investment and direct broadband infrastructure funds to the states for rapid deployment and distribution.

WSU promotes policies and funding to support replication of collaborative efforts among state, county, tribal, and industry partners that reveal gaps in broadband availability in rural and underserved areas. This is done in the hope of fostering more access and affordability as well as digital equity and inclusion. This work will also lead to the Federal Communications Commission, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U. S. Department of Commerce, and other federal funders of broadband utilizing updated mapping information and developing a collection of more accurate, granular data that can be made available to a wider audience. WSU will advocate for federal support for upgraded infrastructure in underserved areas.

## RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE

WSU will continue to support and lead the Washington agricultural economy by collaborating with the state's agriculture stakeholders – including the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the US Department of Agriculture – and pursuing the funding of research and extension efforts that support Washington's vast and complex agriculture economy. Collectively, these partnerships make the state of Washington one of the largest and most successful agriculture enterprises in the world.

### HERBICIDE RESISTANT WEED RESEARCH:

WSU supports immediate and long-term funding to create an initiative researching the impact of herbicide resistant weeds on the region's crops. WSU will advocate to create a regionally focused Herbicide Resistance Initiative for the PNW with secured funding to foster research led by WSU along with University of Idaho and Oregon State University and other cooperators, including industry and regional stakeholder support. WSU will work with our stakeholders to advocate for federal funding for this program and for the creation of a permanent program in the next farm bill addressing the challenge of herbicide resistant weeds in our region.

### FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS:

It is an institutional priority to further establish the College of Veterinary Medicine's Functional Genomics Initiative as leaders in gene editing through public engagement with policy makers in Washington, D.C., including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, USDA, and the White House to provide perspectives on how gene editing in food animals should be regulated and what the role should be for academic institutions active in this arena. WSU will continue to engage with thought leaders in Washington, D.C. to provide opportunities for WSU to continue its leadership role in influencing policies related to functional genomics.

### INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE RESEARCH:

WSU was successful in securing funding from USDA to bring a new ARS facility to Pullman with a new \$104.9 million research facility housing USDA and WSU researchers. WSU will continue to work with our stakeholders to engage with USDA and Congressional leadership in navigating this process to ensure this building is built in a timely manner.



## FEDERAL FUNDING RESEARCH INVESTMENTS:

WSU will continue to expand the reach and impact of our faculty and staff within targeted federal agencies by building the relationships which lead to strategic funding opportunities.

### HEALTH SCIENCES

WSU will focus on expanding federal opportunities in key areas of excellence such as addiction, community health policy, neuroscience, pharmacology, rare genetic disorders, and sleep behavior and performance. The state of Washington is well represented with senior leaders serving on House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Working with external health policy experts, WSU will leverage our expertise and relationships with Congress and the Administration to support WSU's Health Sciences federal research efforts and workforce development for health care professions including nursing and pharmacy.

### SUPPORTING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Working directly with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of Energy, WSU will work with in-state stakeholders, and industry and national lab partners to align research priorities with those of the Washington congressional delegation. Together we will work with external policy experts to develop joint research opportunities for WSU with emphasis on new technologies such as electric grid security, artificial intelligence, quantum physics, alternative fuels including hydrogen and biobased fuels, nuclear energy, and pandemic response and preparation. WSU will engage officials within those agencies and relevant House and Senate committees in support of the University's federal research efforts.

## DRIVE TO 25: WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY'S HIGHEST STRATEGIC PRIORITY

The Drive to 25 is Washington State University's goal of becoming one of the nation's top 25 public research universities by 2030. Its objectives guide decisions about institutional goals, priorities, and financial investments affecting WSU's teaching, research, and service mission. Achieving top 25 status will: boost student enrollment; attract additional external funding; create new public and private partnerships; provide students with a transformational educational experience; and, help the state reach its educational attainment goal of 70 percent of adults aged 25-44 having a postsecondary credential by 2023.

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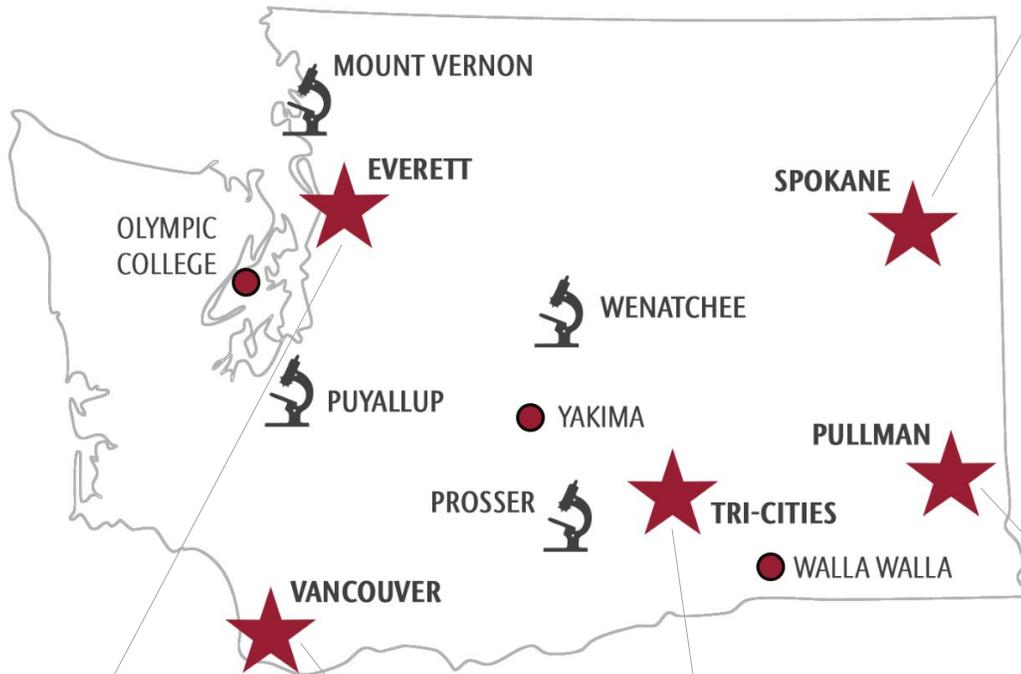
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## WSU: SERVICE TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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.



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 the 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.

**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.

**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.