



# WSU 2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Established in 1890 as the state's land-grant research university, WSU's research priorities around sustaining health and resources, advancing opportunity and equity, and improving quality of life through smart systems reflect the state's economy.

WSU enrolls almost 30,000 students, producing degrees at campuses in Pullman, Vancouver, Spokane, Tri-Cities and Everett and at satellite programs in Walla Walla, Yakima and Bremerton. As the state's land-grant, WSU has Extension offices in all 39 counties and Research and Extension Centers in Puyallup, Mount Vernon, Prosser and Wenatchee. And, as pioneers in online education, WSU's Global Campus serves students worldwide.

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### PEOPLE: Retaining high value faculty and staff

WSU requests **\$9.365 million** for compensation enhancements for a depleted employee base that has weathered budget reductions, shouldered new responsibilities, and adapted under highly volatile conditions to keep the university operating during the COVID-19 pandemic. People define the university's value proposition to the state and now these people find themselves losing ground to inflation as salaries have been frozen due to the pandemic. Importantly, new investment will also help WSU retain the faculty that define students' academic careers, the staff who are attentive to their academic and personal needs, and all employees committed to delivering upon the university's tripartite mission of teaching, research and public service – all going to support student success.

### DATA AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE BOUNDARY: Building a cybersecurity workforce to prevent a technological "pandemic"

Threats to data security across the globe have revealed an acute need for cybersecurity professionals to ensure continuity of operations for governments and employers alike. WSU requests **\$4.448 million** in the supplemental operating budget to establish two new academic programs at three of our campuses across the state to bolster the cybersecurity workforce in two key areas. (1) A new degree in Cybersecurity Operations would train students to design and build secure networks, security tools such as firewalls, and secure methods of transporting data. (2) A new major in Information Assurance would train students to devise security strategies and policies for their employers, analyze attacks, and assess risk tolerance. Both programs would be offered at WSU campuses in Pullman, the Tri-Cities and Everett.

### RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH: Equipping pharmacists with behavioral and mental health training

Pharmacists already provide critical primary care in communities across the state but need additional training to devise new pharmaceutical strategies for patients with multiple mental health conditions, helping them to practice at the top of their license. WSU is requesting **\$341,000** in the supplemental operating budget to establish a one-year pharmacy residency program that would train two residents each year in Eastern Washington. This request is advanced in tandem with a similar request by the University of Washington to enhance expertise at a time when more than ever is known about complex mental health challenges and when pharmacists have more pharmaceutical options than ever before.

### WSU BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment: **29,843** headcount

Tuition and fees: **\$12,417** for resident undergraduates

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

**44 percent\*** of undergraduates graduate without debt

**29 percent\*** of undergraduates pay no tuition

**29 percent\*** of undergraduates pay full tuition

**81.8 percent** of undergraduates are Washington residents

**32.1 percent** are students of color including **36.0 percent** of freshmen

**26.9 percent** of undergraduates are Pell Grant eligible

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

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

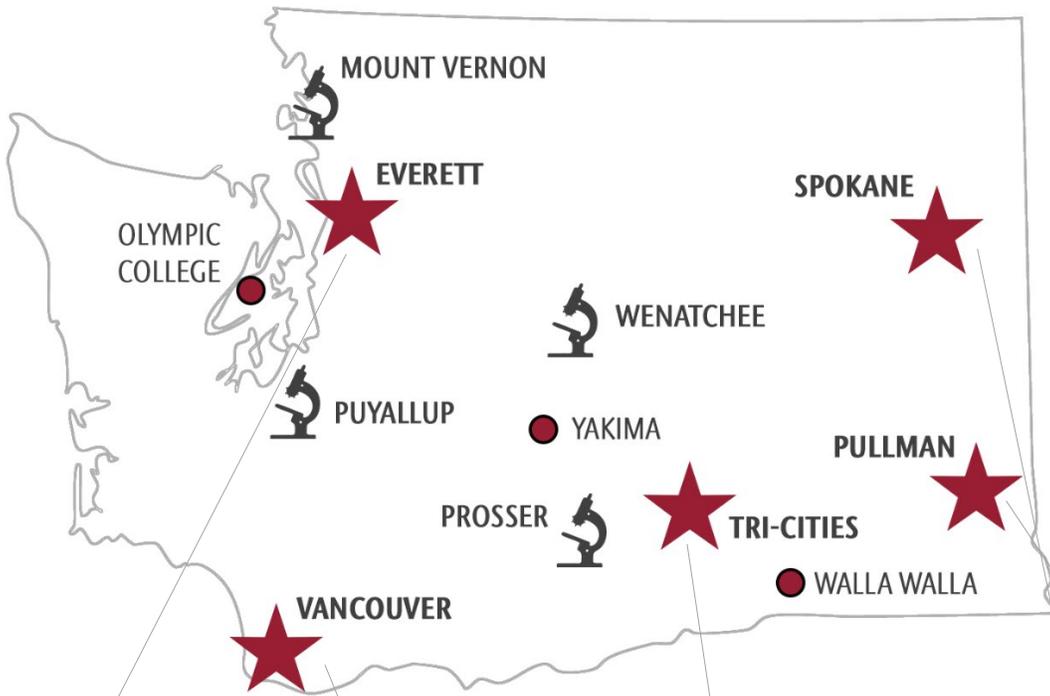
Average time to degree: **4.1 years** for first-time full-time freshmen

\*\*\*Data from Fall 2020



## 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 communities and major industries. 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 university's oldest and largest campus with an enrollment of more than 19,000 students.

**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.

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.