



Endowed Chair Campaign FAQ

1. Why does WSU not fund a faculty position for the Master Gardener Program?

- a. More than half of WSU Extension's funding comes from grants. Only 16% of our budget comes from state dollars. The remainder comes from federal funds, and contracted partnerships (MOA's) with county governments. Just ten years ago more than half of our funding came from state dollars. Industries and constituencies who want WSU to support their efforts and businesses have endowments at WSU. For example, the Tree Fruit Commission, the Potato Commission, and Small Fruit Commissions have endowed faculty doing research and advocating on their behalf at WSU because of endowment gifts made by industry to WSU. The WSU Extension Master Gardener Program is similar to industry in that our program is a constituency of individuals who have a common goal: the success of the WSU Master Gardener Program.

2. Who is 'in charge' of the endowment distributions?

- a. The Gift Use Agreement states that the Dean of CAHNRS or designee is in charge of the endowment distributions. CAHNRS administration has trusted Jennifer Marquis, Statewide Leader, to spend Master Gardener gift funds effectively. Regardless of who is in the Dean's seat or the Statewide Master Gardener Leader's seat, the funds MUST be spent in accordance with the GUA. In short, all funds will be used to support WSU Extension Master Gardener programs.

3. Who is 'in charge' of the distributions if we do not reach the \$1.5 M goal?

- a. The Gift Use Agreement states that the Dean of CAHNRS or designee is in charge of the endowment distributions. CAHNRS administration has trusted Jennifer Marquis, Statewide Leader, to spend Master Gardener gift funds effectively. Regardless of who is in the Dean's seat or the Statewide Master Gardener Leader's seat, the funds MUST be spent in accordance to the GUA. In short, all funds will be used to support Master Gardener programs even if we fall short of meeting our goal of \$1.5 M.

4. Will Master Gardener Volunteers and staff have a say in how distributions are spent?

- a. The GUA, which is a legally binding document, governs how the funds are to be spent. The chairholder will work in concert with CAHNRS administration and WSU Extension Master Gardener stakeholders to support Master Gardeners statewide. The GUA is intentionally vague because this endowment will live into perpetuity. We must be nimble and provide flexibility for the Master Gardener program 25, 75, even 500 years down the road.

5. What happens to the WSU Extension Master Gardener State lead/coordinator position (Jennifer Marquis' position)?

- a. The statewide Coordinator position will remain a part of the Program Leadership. It is stated as such in the GUA uses and purposes section. The Program Coordinator will work collaboratively with the Endowed Chair.

6. Why should we solicit funds or give funds at the State level? I'd much rather donate to my own county Program or Foundation.



- a. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. We've been trying to operate using a structure that was established in 1975 when budgets were flush and there was enough faculty and staff to support volunteers in each county. We must think more wholistically about moving our Program forward in perpetuity. And, this is a five-year effort. It is a short-term initiative that will have a long-term, positive impact for all Programs across the state and will raise our Program to be an example on the national stage.
- 7. Why am I being asked to support a statewide endowment vs. giving to my local program?**
 - a. This campaign has a direct impact on our local program, through curriculum, science-based horticulture practices, and cutting-edge research. In addition, a faculty chair can connect us with a wide range of information and experts nationally.
- 8. How are other faculty and staff in Extension funded?**
 - a. There are a variety of funding mechanisms, but the majority are funded through County partnerships.
- 9. Why does it seem like WSU has not been fully supportive of the Extension Master Gardener Program?**
 - a. Budget cuts in 2009 severely impacted WSU's ability to hire faculty and staff. Just ten years ago more than half of the WSU Extension budget was funded by Washington State. Today only 16% of our funding comes from the State. The current financial climate requires constituency base efforts that inform WSU about what our communities need. The Tree Fruit Industry, Potato Commission and Grain Growers have endowments that have enabled WSU to hire a number of faculty and staff to support their needs. Success with this campaign will require WSU to hire a faculty horticulturist that is fully dedicated to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program.
- 10. Why is now the time to launch this endowed Chair campaign?**
 - a. The 50th MG Anniversary provides a unique opportunity to build statewide support for the long-term viability of the MG Program and the broader educational scope it can provide in the future to every county in Washington state and every MG program nationwide.
- 11. How can I make a gift to the campaign?**
 - a. There are [a number of ways you can make a gift](#) to support the Endowed Chair Campaign. You can mail a check, give on-line, make a pledge, or a planned gift.
- 12. I can't afford to give very much, so why should I give?**
 - a. Every donation matters. If all 4000 Extension Master Gardeners were to pledge \$5 a month for five years or a total of \$300 per volunteer, we would have \$1.2 Million invested in the endowment.
- 13. Is my gift tax-deductible?**
 - a. Yes, gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. The WSU Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is structurally separate from Washington State University and exists solely for WSU's benefit, serving as the preferred channel for private gifts to all areas of the University. The WSU Foundation's taxpayer identification number is 91-1075542.
- 14. How should I make out my check? Where do I send it?**



- a. When making a gift by check, please remember to include a contribution card or a statement indicating your gift's purpose to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Endowed Chair Campaign. Gifts made by check should be payable to the WSU Foundation and mailed to:

Washington State University Foundation
PO Box 641927
Pullman, WA 99164-1927

15. What do I do if someone is interested in making a non-cash gift like a bequest or other type of planned gift through their estate or a gift of stock or a mutual fund?

- a. Connect the potential donor with Chalayne Foster or Nick Dolce with the CAHNRS Development office.

Q. Nick Dolce, nick.dolce@wsu.edu, 509-339-9758

R. Chalayne Foster, Chalayne.foster@wsu.edu, 509-592-3278

16. Where do I find information about Fees?

- a. The best place is on the WSU Foundation's disclosure of fees and assessments page. A 5% advancement fee is applied to gifts processed by the WSU Foundation to help offset direct operating costs related to soliciting, processing and stewarding private contributions. This advancement fee is effectively an investment in future fundraising to benefit the Master Gardener program, WSU Extension, and all of WSU.