

Coug Day at the Capitol 2020

Legislative Priorities 2019 - 2020



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SB 6127

Add a Graduate student to the Washington Student Achievement Council

Those attaining graduate and professional degrees will fill much needed positions within our healthcare, technology, science, and other sectors. While graduate students provide a myriad of academic functions in addition to coursework, most are not considered employees (No protections to limit their required work hours and no benefits, holidays). Graduate/Professional students hold 13% of student debt, yet account for 77% of federal profits on student loans. There is a lack of understanding regarding quality, cost, and time to completion for graduate and professional education in Washington State. WSAC should start acknowledging graduate and professional students, including their contributions and struggles, by creating a voting seat on the council.

SB 6561 / HB 2801

Undocumented Student Loans

We ask that Washington State Legislature continue to support all students who are pursuing higher education, including those who are undocumented. We ask for a bill that is available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students attending a public two-year or four-year university in Washington. As well as a program that is administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council; Competitive with federal student loan programs; Subsidized for the time that a student is in college (doesn't accrue interest); Offers income-based repayment options; Offers loan forgiveness for students who work in public service for ten years.

WSU at a Glance

Enrollment

31,899 total students

Pullman: 20,976

Vancouver: 3,577

Global: 3,565

Tri-Cities: 1,813

Spokane: 1,685

Everett: 283

Extension Programs:
39 Washington Counties

Demographics

76.7% In-State

7.2% International

53.2% Female

30.5% Multicultural

32.9% First Generation

29.4% Pell Grant
Recipients/Eligible

5.4% Veteran

Degree Programs

95 Undergraduate majors

79 Master's degree programs

63 Doctoral degree programs

4 Professional degree
disciplines

Financial Impact

\$360.5 Million spent on
Research and Development
FY 2018

Private support: \$145.1 Million

Community Impact

81,323 hours of civic
engagement 2018-2019

400+ Registered Student
Organizations

Alumni in all 50 states and
150 countries

Ranked 16/50 top
LGBTQ+ friendly university

Go Cougs!

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SB 5395 / HB 2184

K-12 Comprehensive Sex Education

Young people deserve age-appropriate, medically accurate information about sex, reproduction, and concepts like respecting boundaries, asking before touching, and who to turn to for help- and it should be taught in culturally competent, inclusive ways. But many young people in Washington don't have access to the information and skills they need to protect their health because public schools in Washington aren't required to provide sex education.

SB 6439 / HB 2327

Title IX Faculty Transfers & Records

Washington State University urges the legislature to protect all students in postsecondary educational institutions. This bill would help ensure that Washington State students are protected from their institution hiring an employee who has been found to have committed sexual misconduct at another postsecondary institution in Washington. Disclosure of this information is a matter of public safety according to the legislature, sexual misconduct being harassment or assault can lead to serious public health and safety issues. These effects may deprive students of their opportunity to obtain an education which would otherwise improve their life, and that of their own children.

Continued Support of the Washington College Grant and Future Expansion

We the students across all campuses of Washington State University are unmeasurably grateful for your support in fully funding what is now known as the Washington College Grant. It is financial opportunity policies and financial aid grants such as this that provide us with possibilities that we thought were out of reach, which are shaping the lives of not only us students but our families as well. We hope that it doesn't stop here - that you as our representatives continue to support us through this grant, so that we can continue to grow ourselves personally and professionally in the hopes of fostering a prosperous community alongside leaders like you.

Thank you for your support of higher education!

Go Cougs!