



## WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY 2006 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST POLICY ISSUES Biotechnology Life Sciences Building

Washington State University requests authority to utilize the state's Certificates of Participation (COP) process to finance up to \$63,000,000 plus financing costs and expenses to construct the WSU Biotechnology/Life Sciences Building beginning in 2006. The source of funds to repay the COPs will be the revenue earned on the University's permanent funds and deposited in the WSU Building Account. Funding capacity is available since earlier projects funded in this manner will soon be repaid.

This request has no cost to the State Construction Account and no impact on the state debt limit.

### **AgWeatherNet (Washington Public Agricultural Weather System) \$800,000**

AgWeatherNet is vitally important to the agricultural economy, being used for irrigation scheduling for water use efficiency, frost prediction to protect tree fruits and other crops, weather data to underpin pest and disease prediction models that lead to minimal and effective use of pesticides, and many other weather-related production management decisions. The AgWeatherNet also provides important data on wind for fire services, for prediction of airborne particulates, and other weather-dependent state and private agricultural, natural resource, and environmental activities in Washington. The 2005 Legislature appropriated \$300,000 to WSU to fund the equipment acquisition needed to expand AgWeatherNet to 135 stations, but no funds were appropriated for operations. The expanded AgWeatherNet system will provide localized weather data and related information products to the vast majority of farming operations throughout Washington.

### **BIOAg (Biologically Intensive and Organic Agriculture) \$800,000**

The BIOAg program has been proposed by the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) to:

- Enhance the economic and environmental health of Washington agriculture through research, education and outreach on organic and other biologically intensive farming methods.

- Assist producers in meeting environmental regulations, accessing higher value markets and developing value-added products, thereby increasing farm profitability.
- Respond to the rapidly growing public demand for locally-grown, organic and natural foods.
- Investigate links between improved human health, food quality and biologically intensive farming methods.

**WSU/UW Technology Transfer: A Joint Investment to Enhance the Beneficial Impact of University Research \$450,000**

This request is designed to heighten the impact of university research on emerging issues and the State's economy. The focus of this request is to build better mechanisms to transfer discoveries made through university research to the private sector for development and application. The University of Washington TechTransfer Office and the Washington State University Office of Research will coordinate programs to enhance technology transfer and support future competitiveness in the knowledge based economy. In addition, the UW/WSU Policy Consensus Center, which provides a framework for the resolution of important public policy issues, will be strengthened.