

The 2007- 2009 Operating Budget Request: Shaping Your Research University for Washington's Future

Unprecedented communication with industries, businesses, colleges and other universities has produced a compelling state operating budget request package from Washington State University that will nurture more engineers and scientists, launch an agriculture research program based on industry needs, promote bio-fuels made from Washington commodities, and create more doctors, nurses and dentists for the Inland Northwest. WSU is also seeking compensation to be set at competitive rates to recruit and retain high-quality faculty, staff and students to ensure that we are "*Keeping The Best In Washington.*" Those are the highlights of the package that has now been submitted to Gov. Christine Gregoire and legislative leaders for consideration. The governor is expected to make her recommendation to the Legislature later this year. These are the pressing state needs that WSU budget requests specifically address:

- **Doing The Math: Well-Prepared College Graduates in the Workforce.**

This comprehensive \$13 million biennial budget package strengthens the pipeline into college through outreach programs for students in middle, junior and senior high school and additional support for college students in high-demand areas such as math and science. This package strives to meet both the demands of business and those of our students by increasing Washington State University's capacity in engineering and science education. Some of the strategies WSU proposes are innovative and have not been previously discussed by the Legislature. One example is that it proposes upgrading some current enrollments to allow more existing students into high-demand fields. The proposal also increases state and regional economic capacity and access by funding 515 additional general student FTE enrollments across the Tri-Cities, Vancouver, and Pullman-Spokane campuses. It adds a new Electrical Engineering program and 400 new baccalaureate students at WSU Vancouver and high-demand enrollments for WSU Tri-Cities.

- **Growing Washington: An Industry-Based Unified Agriculture Initiative**

The \$10.8 million request coupled with internal reallocations, federal contracts, and private funding is aimed at developing technological solutions to assure that this \$29 billion industry remains viable, globally competitive and environmentally sustainable. It is the result of dozens of collaborative meetings over nine months with key stakeholders in the state's leading industry. These meetings have already led to internal reallocations within WSU's existing agricultural research budget. This request creates new positions across the state to fill key gaps that remain in research areas to support our very diverse agricultural industry.

- **More Doctors, Dentists and Nurses for the Inland Northwest.**

In close cooperation with the University of Washington and Eastern Washington University, WSU proposes a \$9.5 million package to bring the benefits of additional doctors, dentists and nurses to Eastern Washington. The proposal includes expanding the University of Washington Schools of Medicine and Dentistry programs in Spokane. It also includes a request to produce 30 new undergraduate nursing students, 20 master's degree students and 15 doctorally prepared nurses in Spokane through a new PhD program.

- **Fueling Washington with Bio-products**

This \$6.7 million package presents a comprehensive joint bio-energy and bio-products research program to reduce Washington State's foreign energy dependence and boost economic development through production of high-value consumer goods using in-state crops and biomass. This joint request is the result of an unprecedented partnership between Washington State University, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, which is managed by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy. Of the \$6.7 million, \$2 million is jointly requested by WSU and WSDA to support this crucial partnership. The \$2 million will be appropriated to the partners through WSDA. The remaining \$4.7 million is to be appropriated to WSU.

- **Taking Care of Business: Access to Small Business Development Centers**

This \$707,000 request expands small business counseling services with a first-time legislative appropriation of critical core funding. It establishes three new offices in Southeastern Washington, Kelso-Longview and the Aberdeen-Shelton area. The core support will also add one position at each of the existing centers operated by Highline Community College in Des Moines and Olympic College in Bremerton. WSU MBA internships with SBDC offices are also created. Small business owners and community colleges were consulted as we developed our request to enhance and expand the Small Business Development Center system. The WSU share of the request is \$400,000.

- **Finding Common Ground: Policy Consensus Center**

Together with the University of Washington, WSU is requesting permanent funding to allow the UW/WSU Policy Consensus Center (The William D. Ruckelshaus Center) to continue its successful work in the resolution of important public policy issues. State funding is provided to allow communities and groups who cannot afford the services of the successful UW-WSU center to participate. It will also allow the center to engage earlier in disputes maintain a continuity of services, and research emerging issues.

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