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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 11, 2015

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**Council will review progress toward attainment goals and convene symposium on affordability**

**Olympia** — On Nov. 18, the council will review the first draft of a report documenting the progress Washington has made toward its educational attainment goals: by 2023 all Washington adults ages 25-44 will have a high school diploma or equivalent and 70 percent will have a postsecondary credential. Members will also discuss implications of the report, which may inform the Council’s 2016 Strategic Action Plan.

The council will hear from a panel of students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. They will share their perspectives on college affordability issues related to access, completion, and employment.

At 1:00 p.m., the council will convene a symposium on college affordability. Dr. Sandy Baum, of George Washington University, will share her thoughts on the importance of defining and measuring affordability. Thereafter, a panel of legislators and higher education leaders will share their perspectives on how policies and partnerships can support affordable education pathways. Dr. Nate Johnson, a national consultant on affordability, will lead the concluding discussion on setting affordability priorities in Washington State.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 12:15 p.m. The symposium will begin at 1:00 p.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Public comment is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. and all [materials](#) will be available online the day of the meeting.

**Meeting location:**

Saint Martin’s University  
North Worthington Center  
Conrad and Contris Rooms  
5000 Abbey Way SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

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**About the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC):** Established as a cabinet-level state agency in 2012, WSAC provides strategic planning, administrative oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington.

The [nine-member Council](#) includes five citizen members, one of whom is a current student, and one representative from each of Washington’s four major educational sectors. The Council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

Find us online at [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov), on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on [Facebook](#).