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OUR VISION:

We inspire and foster excellence in educational attainment.



2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Keep the College Bound Scholarship Program strong.

College Bound is an early promise of the State Need Grant and it works. College Bound students are graduating from high school at rates over 15 percentage points higher than their peers from low-income families who did not sign up. The program plays a pivotal role in increasing students' awareness of postsecondary opportunities.

- In FY 2017, \$531,000 would support the 14-fold increase in students. This will expand communications, streamline the application, enhance data transfer, improve eligibility monitoring, & fulfill legislative requirements.

Make College Affordable through the State Need Grant.

Build on the unprecedented tuition reductions of 2015, and invest in the SNG to support eligible, unserved students. The SNG is Washington's flagship financial aid program for students pursuing postsecondary certificates, workforce degrees, associates degrees, and bachelor's degrees. Research shows that students who receive grants are more likely to earn a credential than otherwise similar students. In 2015, over 27,000 eligible students (greater than one in four) did not receive a State Need Grant due to lack of funding.

- In FY 2017, \$19M for the SNG would support an additional 4,500 students of the 27,000 who are eligible and not served.

Advance STEM Education.

STEM education is vital to Washington's technology-driven economy. The STEM Education Innovation Alliance, staffed by WSAC, is increasing STEM awareness and opportunities. The Alliance is building a STEM metrics Dashboard to measure success.

- In FY 2017, an investment of \$155,000 would support the continued work of the STEM Education Innovation Alliance.

Enhance Consumer Protection.

In order to protect student and state postsecondary education investments the WSAC is charged with three key regulatory oversight functions: authorizing out-of-state institutions to offer degrees in Washington; approving institutions for eligibility to participate in state financial aid programs; and approving programs for veterans' educational benefits.

- In FY 2017, \$223,000 would protect students' higher education investment through increased school visits, on-site training for financial administrators and improve protections for our veterans.