

<b>Title</b>	<b>Legislative Summary</b>
<b>Staff</b>	Maddy Thompson, Director of Policy and Government Relations Marc Webster, Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor
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<b>Phone</b>	Maddy: 360.528.0921 Marc: 360.753.7862
<b>Synopsis</b>	Staff will provide a summary of the 2015 regular and special sessions of the Legislature.
<b>Guiding questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Were WSAC priorities supported by the 2015 Governor and Legislature?</li> <li>2. What was the basis of the support, or lack of support, for various priorities?</li> <li>3. What work was assigned to WSAC for completion during the interim?</li> <li>4. What will be needed to further pursue WSAC priorities and meet education attainment goals?</li> </ol>
<b>Possible council action</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<b>Documents and attachments</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other

## 2015 Legislative Update & Budget Review

### Council Action

None required. For discussion purposes only.

### Brief Description

Council members will review the higher education highlights of the 2015 regular and special legislative sessions. WSAC staff will provide a summary of major bills and budget items that are relevant to Washington's educational attainment goals and WSAC's administrative duties, and provide Council members with an assessment of the success of WSAC's 2015 legislative priorities.

### Overview

WSAC proposed, and the 2014 Legislature approved, educational attainment goals for Washington:

- By 2023, all adults, ages 25–44, will hold a high school diploma or equivalent; and
- By 2023, 70 percent of adults, ages 25–44, will complete a postsecondary certificate or degree.

WSAC's 2014 Strategic Action Plan outlined the critical next steps to meet Washington's educational attainment goals. This provided the priorities for WSAC's legislative agenda:

- **Maintain the commitment to College Bound Scholarship students.**  
*Request:* \$10 million in 2016, and \$15 million in 2017, for a total of \$25 million for the biennium.
- **Invest in public higher education.**  
Protect maintenance funding for community and technical colleges and public baccalaureate institutions and provide new state funding investments in order to reach the state's postsecondary attainment goals, contain tuition growth, and create a well-educated workforce necessary for a vibrant economy.
- **Enhance the State Need Grant program and fully fund it by 2023.**  
*Request:* \$16 million in 2016, and \$32 million in 2017, for a total of \$48 million for the biennium. Each annual increase would serve an additional 4,000 students.
- **Expand the reach of dual-credit opportunities.**  
Expanding dual-enrollment options for all Washington high school students by reducing costs and other barriers will improve student participation and increase educational attainment.  
*Request:* \$12 million in 2016 and \$17 million in 2017 for a total of \$29 million for the biennium
- **Support underrepresented students by leveraging the state's investment through student support services.**  
Coordinate support services for College Bound K-12 students, expand support services on campuses, and create collective impact coalitions.  
*Request:* \$5 million in 2016 and \$5 million in 2017 for a total of \$10 million for the biennium.

- **Reinvest in State Work Study to provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.**  
*Request:* \$5 million in 2016, and \$5 million in 2017, for a total of \$10 million for the biennium. Begin restoring funding and service levels to reach the 2009 investment level by 2023. These investments would serve an additional 3,000 low- and middle-income students.
- **Pursue policy-driven investments to improve the affordability of higher education.**

#### Resident Status for Veterans for the Purposes of In-State Tuition

Another WSAC priority for the 2015 Legislative session was to ensure our state statutes related to resident status for the purposes of tuition were altered to align with federal requirements established following the passage of the federal Choice Act. The Act requires that veteran students be recognized as state residents at public institutions of higher education for the purpose of using veterans' education benefits for tuition.

#### Policy and Budget Summary

Please see the attached documents for a summary of the major policy bills and budget items that relate to higher education and Washington's educational attainment goals.

#### Potential Questions for Council Members

1. Were WSAC priorities supported by the 2015 Legislature?
2. What was the basis of the support, or lack of support, for various priorities?
3. What work was assigned to WSAC for completion during the interim?
4. What will be needed to further pursue WSAC priorities and meet education attainment goals?



# Legislative Update

June 17, 2015

Maddy Thompson  
Director of Policy & Government Relations

Marc Webster  
Senior Fiscal Policy Advisor





# Strategic Action Plan and Legislative Priorities

- Maintain the commitment to College Bound Scholarship students.
- Invest in public higher education.
- Enhance the State Need Grant program and fully fund it by 2023.
- Expand dual-credit opportunities.



# Strategic Action Plan and Legislative Priorities

- Support underrepresented students by leveraging the state's investment through student support services.
- Reinvest in State Work Study to provide greater access to work-based learning opportunities.
- Pursue policy-driven investments to improve the affordability of higher education.
- Veterans Residency legislation.



# Bills Passed During Regular Session

Bill	Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<b>Budget</b>				
<a href="#">SHB1105</a>	Making 2015 supplemental operating appropriations.	C 3 L 15	Hunter	None
<b>Dual Credit</b>				
<a href="#">HB 1546</a>	Concerning dual credit opportunities provided by Washington state's public institutions of higher education.	C 202 L 15	Reykdal	Support
<b>Gubernatorial Appointments</b>				
<a href="#">SGA 9033</a>	Maud Daudon, Member, WSAC	S Confirmed	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">SGA 9086</a>	Karen Lee, Member, WSAC	S Confirmed	N/A	N/A
<a href="#">SGA 9145</a>	Susan Reyes, Member, WSAC	S Confirmed	N/A	N/A
<b>Higher Ed Costs &amp; Efficiencies</b>				
<a href="#">HB 1961</a>	Decodifying, expiring, and making nonsubstantive changes to community and technical college provisions.	C 55 L 15	Zeiger	Support



# Bills Passed During Regular Session

Bill	Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<b>Medical School and Residencies</b>				
<a href="#">HB 1485</a>	Concerning family medicine residencies in health professional shortage areas.	C 252 L 15	Haler	None
<a href="#">HB 1559</a>	Concerning higher education programs at WSU and UW.	C 6 L 15	Riccelli	None
<b>State Need Grant &amp; College Bound</b>				
<a href="#">SB 5638</a>	Changing state need grant eligibility provisions.	C 121 L 15	Hasegawa	Support
<a href="#">SB 5851</a>	Concerning recommendations of the college bound scholarship program work group.	C 244 L 15	Frocht	Support
<b>Other Financial Aid</b>				
<a href="#">SSB 5534</a>	Creating the certified public accountant scholarship program.	C 215 L 15	Bailey	None
<a href="#">SB 5746</a>	Including Everett Community College as an aerospace training or educational program.	C 218 L 15	Bailey	None



# Bills Passed During Regular Session

Bill	Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<b>Veterans</b>				
<a href="#">SHB 1052</a>	Requiring institutions of higher education to make an early registration process available to spouses and domestic partners of active members of the military.	C 14 L 15	Hayes	None
<a href="#">HB 1706</a>	Authorizing waivers of building fees and services and activities fees for certain military service members.	C 143 L 15	Stanford	Support
<b>Student Support</b>				
<a href="#">SSB 5328</a>	Disseminating financial aid information.	C 212 L 15	Kohl-Welles	None
<b>Student Transitions</b>				
<a href="#">SB 5122</a>	Concerning precollege placement measures.	C 83 L 15	Kohl-Welles	None
<b>Campus Sexual Violence/Assault</b>				
<a href="#">SSB 5518</a>	Creating procedures to address campus sexual violence.	C 92 L 15	Kohl-Welles	None
<a href="#">SSB 5719</a>	Creating a task force on campus sexual violence prevention.	C 239 L 15	Bailey	None



# Bills Passed During 1st or 2nd Special Session

Bill	Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
STEM				
<a href="#">SHB 1813</a>	Expanding computer science education.	C 3 L 15 E 1	Hansen	Support



# Bills Still Alive During 2nd Special Session

Bill	Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<b>Budget</b>				
<a href="#">ESHB 1106</a>	Making 2015-2017 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Hunter	No position
<a href="#">SB 6050</a>	Making FY 2015 and 2015-2017 operating appropriations.	S Rules 2	Hill	No position
<b>Affordability, Tuition and Higher Education Planning</b>				
<a href="#">SHB 1696</a>	Modifying provisions related to tuition setting authority at public institutions of higher education.	H Rules 3C	Haler	No position
<a href="#">ESSB 5954</a>	Reducing tuition.	S Rules 3	Braun	Other
<b>Financial Aid</b>				
<a href="#">SHB 1570</a>	Creating flexibility for the educator retooling conditional scholarship program.	H Rules 3C	Gregory	Support
<b>High School Assessment and Graduation</b>				
<a href="#">SHB 1855</a>	Waiving local graduation requirements for certain students.	H Passed 3rd	Caldier	Track
<a href="#">HB 2214</a>	Increasing academic rigor and streamlining assessment requirements for high school students.	H Passed 3rd	Reykdal	Support



# Bills Still Alive During 2nd Special Session

Bill	Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<b>Veterans</b>				
<a href="#">2E2SHB 1825</a>	Modifying the definition of resident student to comply with...the veterans access, choice, and accountability act of 2014.	H Passed 3rd	Kilduff	Support
<a href="#">SSB 5355</a>	Modifying the definition of resident student to comply with...the veterans access, choice, and accountability act of 2014.	S Rules 3	Bailey	Support



# Special Session Dates

- **April 26:** Sine Die  
(Last day of the regular 2015 Legislative Session)
- **April 29:** Special Session Convened
- **May 29:** Convened 2nd Special Session
- **June 28: Last day of 30-Day 2nd Special Session**  
(Unless Sine Die is earlier)



# WSAC Legislative Web Page

- Updates
- Schedules
- Bill Trackers
- Budget Comparison

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/legislative-work>



# Questions & Discussion

Maddy Thompson

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360-753-7635

**Comparison: WSAC’s Legislative Recommendations Compared to Governor, House, and Senate Budget**

	WSAC Recommendation	Governor’s Budget Proposal	House Budget Proposal (P2SHB 1106)	Senate Budget Proposal (SSB 6050)
<b>College Bound Scholarship</b>	Maintain the commitment to <b>College Bound Scholarship</b> students.	<b>All three proposals maintain the commitment to the College Bound Scholarship students.</b> Funding differs due to alternate caseload assumptions and coordination with State Need Grant.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request: \$10 M in 2016 and \$15 M in 2017 for a total of <b>\$25 M</b> for the biennium.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Directs 100% CB prioritization directed through tighter coordination of CB and SNG through central hold-back</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal of 100% CB prioritization with local control.</li> <li>Provides \$1.65 M one-time funding in FY 2016 for College Bound students who no longer meet income eligibility with scholarship award amounts separate from the CBS program. Requires that certain CBS income-ineligible students be prioritized for the State Need Grant.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding reduced due to reduced award amounts resulting from reduction in tuition in ESSB 5954.</li> <li>Directs 100% CB prioritization directed through tighter coordination of CB and SNG through central hold-back.</li> <li>\$98K provided to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy at TESC to complete an evaluation of the CB program.</li> </ul>
<b>State Need Grant</b>	<p>Enhance the <b>State Need Grant</b> (SNG) program and fully fund it by 2023 to support an additional 4,000 eligible unserved students in 2016.</p> <p>Request: \$16 M in 2016 and \$32 M in 2017 for a total of <b>\$48 M</b> for the biennium.</p>	<p><b>No new funding</b> to support eligible unserved SNG students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinvests \$23.6 M in savings in SNG due to tighter coordination with CB.</li> </ul>	<p>Provides <b>\$53 M</b> in additional SNG funds to serve additional eligible students.</p> <p>*Note: Funding provided in the second year of the biennium to account for collections from Capital Gains tax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private four-year school SNG are awards are increased 3.5%.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Savings from lower SNG Grant amounts (\$96 M) to be transferred from WSAC to public institutions.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reinvests \$16.5 M in savings in SNG due to tighter coordination with CB.</li> <li>SNG award amounts are reduced in the first year in following percentages: UW - 28.8%, WSU - 26.0%, WWU - 24.1%, CWU - 21.3%, EWU - 16.6%, TESC - 21.8%.</li> <li>Community and technical colleges - 1.4%</li> <li>Private four-year awards are <i>not</i> reduced.</li> <li>Each sector grows in second year by 2.2–2.3%, reflecting growth in average wage.</li> </ul>

	WSAC Recommendation	Governor's Budget Proposal	House Budget Proposal (P2SHB 1106)	Senate Budget Proposal (SSB 6050)
<b>Affordability</b>	Develop an affordability framework intended to <b>reduce volatility in tuition</b> , reduce student debt, and increase investments in postsecondary education.	<b>Freezes resident undergraduate tuition</b> for both years of the 2015–17 biennium for the public baccalaureate colleges and the community and technical colleges.	<b>Freezes resident undergraduate tuition</b>	<b>Reduces tuition by varying amounts.</b>
<b>Higher Education Funding</b>	Protect maintenance funding for community and technical colleges and public baccalaureate institutions and invest in higher education.	Maintenance funding is provided without additional funding to offset no increase in tuition or support inflationary costs of operating public higher education institutions.	<b>\$97 M</b> is provided to support inflationary costs of higher education institutions as follows: UW: \$34.0 M WSU: \$17.8 M EWU: \$5.7 M CWU: \$4.9 M TESC: \$2.4 M WWU: \$7.2 M CTCs: \$25.2 M	Funding is provided to support the cost of reducing tuition: UW: \$107.2 M; Resident undergraduate (RUG) tuition operating fees are reduced by 28.8% in FY 16. WSU: \$69.6 M; RUG tuition reduced by 26.0% in FY 16. EWU: \$12.2 M; RUG tuition reduced by 16.6% in FY 16. CWU: \$18.5 M RUG tuition reduced by 21.3% in FY 16. TESC: \$5.981 M; RUG tuition reduced by 21.8% in FY 16. WWU: \$27.4 M; RUG tuition reduced by 24.1 % in FY 16. CTCs: \$4.35 M; RUG tuition will remain at current levels in FY 16 and be reduced 6% in FY 17.
<b>Higher Education Funding</b>	Invest in public higher education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide new investments to meet educational attainment goals (in support of sector requests).</li> </ul>	Provides \$5 M for Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training and \$5 M for Adult Basic Education to serve 800 additional adults at community and technical colleges.	No funding for Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training this biennium or for Adult Basic Education.	No funding for Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training this biennium or for Adult Basic Education.

	WSAC Recommendation	Governor’s Budget Proposal	House Budget Proposal (P2SHB 1106)	Senate Budget Proposal (SSB 6050)
<b>Higher Education Funding</b>	<p>Invest in public higher education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide new investments to meet educational attainment goals (in support of sector requests).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$8 M for math and science at CWU, EWU, WWU, and TESC.</li> <li>Provides \$6 M for advanced computer science and engineering at UW and WSU (225 high-demand slots added).</li> <li>Provides \$2 M to expand MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program) at CTCs.</li> <li>Provides \$2.5 M to expand registered aerospace apprenticeships at 20 CTCs (SBCTC and Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee).</li> <li>Provides \$1.6 M for incumbent worker training to fabricate composite wings at the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center in Everett.</li> <li>Provides \$300,000 for a maritime licensing training program at Seattle Central Community College.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$300,000 for computer science at TESC; \$8 M for computer science at UW; \$1.234 M for Software Engineering and Data Analytics and Electrical Engineering at WSU; \$910,000 for Comp/Info System Security degree programs at WWU.</li> <li>Provides \$2.5 M to expand MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program) at CTCs in support of underrepresented students.</li> <li>Provides \$0.85 M for Allied Health programs at South Central.</li> <li>South Seattle College Labor Center: \$1 M.</li> <li>Labor Archives at UW: \$0.4 M.</li> <li>\$2.245 M for expansion of programs at WSU Everett, University of North Puget Sound.</li> <li>\$750,000 to develop computer science BS degree program at Bellevue College.</li> <li>\$500,000 for Latino Health Ctr. at UW.</li> <li>\$1 M for ungulate predation study at UW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For STEM: \$4 M at WSU, \$3 M at EWU, \$3 M at CWU, \$3 M at TESC, \$3 M at WWU.</li> <li>For additional computer science degrees: \$4M at UW</li> <li>\$750,000 to develop computer science BS degree program at Bellevue College.</li> <li>\$2.6 M for composite wing training program at WATR center in Everett.</li> <li>\$500,000 for Latino Health Ctr. At UW.</li> <li>\$105,000 for Nuclear Energy program at WSU.</li> <li>\$1 M for WSU to match FAA grant.</li> <li>SBCTC Feasibility study for a new community and technical college in Graham, Washington.</li> <li>TESC allocations for WSIPP studies Dynamic Fiscal Note Impact - \$195,000; Domestic Violence Services - \$98,000; EBP Evaluation - \$500,000; Early Start Act - \$71,000; Paraeducators - \$50,000; Primary Care Study - \$450,000; Anti-Heroin Medicine Study - \$100,000.</li> <li>\$2.25 M for expansion of programs at WSU – Everett, University of North Puget Sound.</li> </ul>
<b>Dual Credit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request: \$12 M in 2016 and \$17 M in 2017 for a total of <b>\$29 M</b> for the biennium.</li> <li>Proposal to expand College in the High School (CHS), including through Grades 9 &amp; 10 (in addition to grades</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides <b>\$9 M</b> for CHS to increase low-income participation in Grades 11 &amp; 12. Adjusts the funding mechanism and covers the cost of the fee for up to 10 college credits per year (for a total of 20 credits for 2 years) for 7,200 low income students:</li> </ul>	<p>Funds E2SHB 1546 to expand dual credit for students in CHS eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch: <b>\$9.4 M.</b></p>	<p>\$6.621 M for implementation of HB 1546.</p>

	WSAC Recommendation	Governor’s Budget Proposal	House Budget Proposal (P2SHB 1106)	Senate Budget Proposal (SSB 6050)
	<p>11 &amp; 12) and provide funding to obtain CHS dual credit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide funding to cover transportation and textbook costs for Running Start students.</li> <li>• Clarifies dual-credit definitions for program at the high school campus vs. college campus.</li> </ul>	<p>OFM-request legislation. The school district may pay for additional credits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running Start (RS) proposal: Clarifies that the RS program for 11th and 12th graders pertains only to those students taking their courses at the college or online. No funding provided for transportation and textbook costs.</li> </ul>		
<b>Student Support</b>	<p>Support underrepresented student support for College Bound K-12 students; expansion of support services on postsecondary campuses, and the creation of collective impact coalitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request: \$5 M in 2016 and \$5 M in 2017 for a total of <b>\$10 M</b> for the biennium.</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative types of support services for K-12, <u>but not postsecondary students.</u></p> <p>Provides \$20 M for Family Engagement Coordinators.</p> <p>Provides \$13.7 M for Guidance Counselors.</p> <p>Provides \$34.7 M for the LAP for 300 high-poverty high schools to extend learning time, wraparound services; graduation strategies; improve attendance and reduce suspensions, match students with mentors and internships.</p> <p>Provides \$2 M for outreach to students eligible for College Bound through OSPI.</p> <p>Provides \$3.75 M to support recruitment and training of mentors to serve Washington Achievers.</p>	<p>Degree completion funding provided to four regional public baccalaureate institutions:</p> <p>EWU - \$996,000; CWU - \$715,000; TESC - \$450,000; WWU - \$1.187 M</p> <p>\$98,000 provided to WSAC related to bill to provide information to high-achieving, low-income high school students on state’s public baccalaureate opportunities.</p> <p>Provides \$100,000 to Dept. of VA for vet support services grants to CTCs and regional universities.</p> <p>Provides \$2.708 M for outreach to students eligible for College Bound through OSPI.</p> <p>Provides \$5.909 M to support recruitment and training of mentors to serve WA Achievers and WA higher education readiness programs.</p>	<p>College Bound PSAT Testing provided for College Board through OSPI: <b>\$750,000</b></p> <p>Provides \$2 M for outreach to students eligible for College Bound through OSPI.</p> <p>Provides \$3.75 M to support recruitment and training of mentors to serve Washington Achievers.</p>
<b>State Work Study</b>	<p>Reinvest in State Work Study. Begin restoring funding to support an additional 3,000 students.</p> <p>Request: \$5 M in 2016 and \$5 M in 2017 for a total of <b>\$10 M</b> for the biennium.</p>	<p>Maintenance of current funding. No additional investment in State Work Study.</p>		

### Other Higher Education and Education Items

	Governor's Budget Proposal	House Budget Proposal (PSHB 1106)	Senate Budget Proposal (SSB 6050)
<b>Tuition-Setting Authority</b>	Tuition-setting authority for resident undergraduates at public baccalaureate institutions returned to the Legislature.	Tuition-setting authority for resident undergraduates at public baccalaureate institutions returned to the Legislature.	Tuition-setting authority for resident undergraduates at public baccalaureate institutions returned to the Legislature.
<b>UW/WSU Medical School</b>	UW/WSU Medical school not addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$8 M to WSU Medical School. \$9.36 M from WWAMI reallocated to UW.</li> <li>Provides \$3 M to UW for medical residencies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within existing resources, WSU must offer UW to continue to operate WWAMI program at 2013-15 levels.</li> <li>\$2.5 M to WSU for new medical school in Spokane</li> <li>Provides \$9 M to UW for WWAMI.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Financial Aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$100 M for the Opportunity Scholarship program, a public-private partnership, to serve an additional 12,000 students who commit to earn a bachelor's degree in STEM and health care.</li> <li>Provides \$3 M for health professionals loan repayments for primary care providers working in health professional shortage areas or mental health providers working with adolescents.</li> <li>Provides \$4.2 M to integrate more K-12 classroom experience in pre-service training programs and restoring funding to the Alternative Routes to Teaching program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$30 M for the Opportunity Scholarship program.</li> <li>Provides \$7.65 M for health professions loan repayments (reinstatement of program administered by WSAC).</li> <li>Provides \$2.5 M for SNG Scholarships study.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$28.4 M for the Opportunity Scholarship program.</li> <li>Provides \$7.65 M in new funding for health professions loan repayments (reinstatement of program administered by WSAC), and requires spending of \$1.72 M in fund balance.</li> </ul>
<b>Other – Environment and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$2.6 M for industrial and farm energy audits at WSU; \$1.6 M for the Washington Ocean Acidification Center at the UW; \$1 M for the Climate Impacts Group at UW; \$250,000 for renewable solar energy incentives at WSU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides \$70,000 for thermal energy efficiency at WSU.</li> <li>Provides \$400,000 for the Climate Impacts Group at UW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1.7 M for the Washington Ocean Acidification Center at the UW.</li> </ul>

The Honorable Mark Schoesler  
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Sharon Nelson  
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Frank Chopp  
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Dan Kristiansen  
House Minority Leader

The Honorable Andy Hill  
Chair, Senate Ways & Means

The Honorable James Hargrove Ranking  
Member, Senate Ways & Means

The Honorable Ross Hunter  
Chair, House Appropriations

The Honorable Bruce Chandler Ranking  
Member, House Appropriations

April 10, 2015

Dear Representatives and Senators:

As members of the Washington Student Achievement Council we greatly appreciate your strong support for higher education and the entire education continuum from early learning and K-12 to postsecondary education during the 2015 Legislative session. Support for all three areas and the health and well-being of students impacts our ability to meet our state's education attainment goals.

We greatly appreciate your support for:

- The State Need Grant, which is key to reducing barriers to enter and persist in college, and to reducing student loan debt.
- The College Bound Scholarship program, which has improved students' high school graduation and college-going rates and college readiness.
- The expansion of STEM programs to help support our state's economic growth and provide strong job opportunities in high-demand fields.
- Dual credit opportunities and vital support services that improve student access and success.

In relation to the State Need Grant, please consider:

- Reinvesting savings from potential tuition reductions to serve additional eligible students.
- Mitigating the effect of proposed tuition policy changes for public colleges and universities on low-income students attending private four-year institutions.

From an administrative standpoint, if the final budget includes tuition reductions, please consider that the GET program will need time to implement necessary changes:

To Honorable Legislative Leaders

April 10, 2015

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- Postponing tuition reductions to the second year would provide time for the Office of the State Actuary to complete modeling of various pricing and other options and to inform customers of changes. This is particularly critical if budget negotiations run past April 26.

Thank you again for your support for students and education during the 2015 Legislative Session. Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional information.

Sincerely,



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Maud Daudon (Chair)



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Karen Lee (Vice Chair)



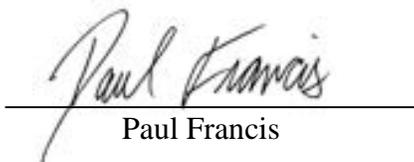
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Marty Brown



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Jeff Charbonneau



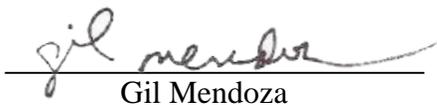
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Paul Francis



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Ray Lawton



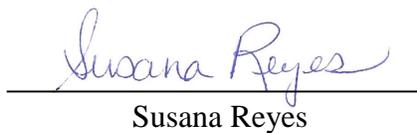
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Gil Mendoza



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Rai Nauman Mumtaz



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Susana Reyes

cc: Senator Bailey, Representative Hansen, Senator Kohl-Welles, Representative Zeiger, Gene Sharratt (WSAC Exec Director) and staff.