## **State Work Study**



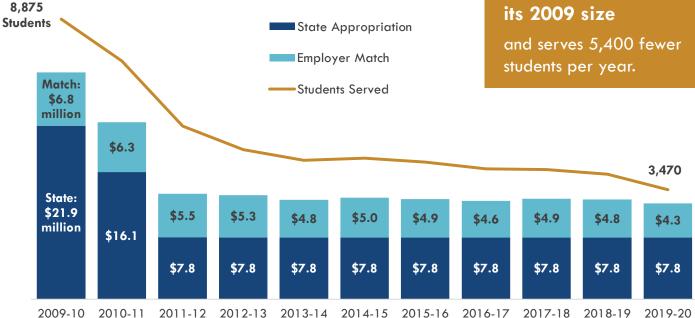
#### **Work Study Contributes to Economic Growth**

Washington's State Work Study (SWS) program partners with nearly 500 employers and 54 nonprofit institutions to provide financial aid for low- and middle-income students. Qualifying students get an approved job, on- or off-campus, to support their education. Work study builds students' skills, increases their earnings, and reduces reliance on student loans.

The state contributes to the wages of work study employees, so participating employers benefit from educated, motivated workers at a lower cost. Work study contributes to economic growth by creating jobs and adding experienced, high-skilled college graduates to the state's workforce. Many employers hire work study employees permanently after graduation.

It's really hard for new graduates to get jobs if they don't have practical experience that sets them apart from all other applicants vying for limited employment opportunities. Through my State Work Study position in the information technology area, I am developing a range of skills while in school that I believe will give me a lot more choices in my career path once I've graduated.

**Historical Funding & Service Levels** 



In 2019-20, nearly

3,500 students earned over \$11.7million

in SWS wages.

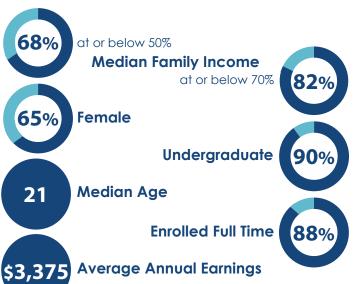
SWS employers matched state appropriations by an average of 36%,

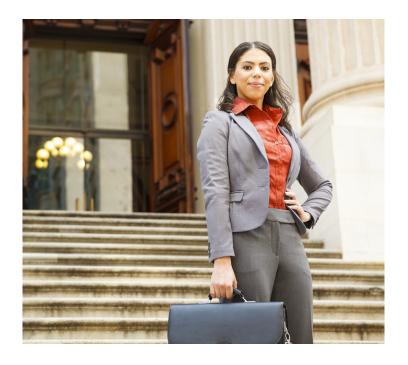
leveraging nearly \$4.3 million in additional student earnings and enabling some 1,300 more eligible students to earn while they learn.

Currently funded at \$7.8 million annually,

SWS in 2020-21 is less than half its 2009 size

# **State Work Study Student Profile**





#### **SWS Survey Results**

#### Students benefit from work study jobs:

94%	Learn important work skills transferable to their future career
90%	Improve their overall satisfaction with college
89%	Believe job learning improves classroom performance

#### Participating employers praise the State Work Study program:

95% Makes their organization more productive 89% Helps strengthen community relationships 88% Provides a means of influencing college programs related to their industry

### Employers say work study employees learn important workplace skills:

Oral communication

Time management

Working independently

**Punctuality** 

Teamwork

Organization

Problem solving

**Customer service** 

Written communication

Professional appearance

Technology & data

**Project management** 

Without State Work Study, our business would not have made nearly the progress, or been able to sustain the level of growth, especially in this difficult economic environment. Many of the students we've helped train over the years have been hired as full-time employees after graduation. SWS is a win-win for both employers and students.