UW Contributions and Highlights

- Applications for early admission to the UW were up 20 percent over the previous year and at this time, the UW expects applications for the overall freshman class of Fall 2009 to be up by 5 to 10 percent over the previous year. This will make admissions even more competitive than in the Fall of 2008 when about 20,000 students competed for a little more than 5,000 state-funded enrollment slots.

- The UW has the lowest undergraduate resident tuition and fees of peer institutions in the Global Challenge states. In 2008-09, UW tuition and fees of $6,802 per year is about $2,000 BELOW the average of these institutions. Kiplinger’s consistently ranks the UW as one of the best bargains in higher education in the nation.

- Close to one third of entering UW freshmen come from families whose income is below the state median and one third of all freshmen will be the first in their families to attend college. Last year, more than 5,000 UW undergraduates (20 percent) benefited from the Husky Promise program which through a combination of state, federal and UW local funds provides free tuition for low- to lower-middle income students.

- More than half of all UW undergraduates complete their degrees with zero debt, compared to the national average of about 65%. For UW students who must borrow, the average debt load is $3000 or 18% below national averages.

- Smart Money magazine recently ranked the UW number five among public schools included in the survey that provide the best payback to students. The UW outranked the “payback ratio” of all of the liberal arts and Ivy League schools included in the rankings.

- 77 percent of all entering freshman graduate from the UW within six years. This is the highest percentage of any public university in the state and is comparable to graduation rates for other universities around the nation of the UW’s caliber. The UW’s average time to degree is 4.4 years.

- In 2007-08, the UW awarded over 12,000 bachelor, graduate, and professional degrees -- 44 percent of those awarded by public universities in Washington State. The UW awarded 8,167 bachelor’s degrees (38 percent of the state total), 2,902 master’s degrees (62 percent), 840 doctoral degrees (74 percent) and 691 professional degrees (73 percent).

- In fall 2007, 35 percent of UW students were enrolled in course-work in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In 2007-08, the UW awarded 2,900 degrees in high-demand areas of study – 54 percent of the statewide total for public universities.

- The UW receives more federal research dollars than any other public university in the nation. In 2008, this amounted to more than $1.0 billion which supports almost 7,000 direct jobs in the local economy. The UW is the largest employer in the city of Seattle, with over 27,000 benefits eligible faculty and staff.

- The UW operates two major metropolitan medical centers – UW Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center – which combined provide 25% of the total charitable medical care in Washington State.

- 244 companies have been started by UW faculty and students or with UW developed technology.

- UW is one of the top public universities in the nation in the number of students who have received premier national awards such as the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Fulbright and Goldwater scholarships and fellowships.