



## **RESTORE NON-RESIDENT GRADUATE SUBSIDY BUDGET REDUCTION — \$1.9 MILLION**

In the 2007-09 conference budget, House and Senate negotiators decided to require the UW and WSU to take a budget reduction which was based on reducing the state general fund subsidy for non-resident graduate students. For the UW, this represented a reduction of almost \$4 million for the biennium.

Each year, the UW produces over 2,500 graduate degree recipients, most of who stay in the state of Washington and contribute to the economy. In fall 2006, over 10,000 UW graduate and professional students were enrolled in over 100 degree offering academic units. Of these, almost 20% are international students.

In order to remain a globally competitive research institution, the UW must attract the best and brightest graduate students regardless of whether they live in Washington State, the U.S. or other countries. Many of the nation's most famous research innovations were the result of initial work done by graduate students. For example, it was two Stanford graduate students who invented the Google search engine.

At a time when Washington Learns challenges the state to "educate more students to higher levels," this policy reduction directly affects the University's ability to accomplish that goal.

When comparisons are made to the Global Challenge States, Washington is in last place on the number of advanced degrees awarded to those ages 20-34 (per 1,000 of the population). Nationally, the state ranks 47th in the participation rate of those 18 and older receiving a graduate or professional degree at a public institution.

In a biennium in which the state enjoyed a significant budget surplus, this reduction to the core education budgets of the UW and WSU was the only reduction in the entire Higher Education near-general fund state budget that reduced or eliminated services. Restoring this cut would ensure that the students attending the state's research institutions get the high level of service the public expects.

