The University of Washington shares more than 150 years of history with the state of Washington and its citizens. It is a partnership that has led to innovative technologies, cures for diseases, revolutionary educational methods and much more. But rapid and continuing changes in higher education funding form a potential roadblock to our state’s future success.

The Washington Futures Committee—a small group of civic and business leaders—convened to address these challenges and affirm anew the partnership between the UW, state and community leaders, and the public, with a 21st century vision.

Together, we have the ideas. Together, we can find the resources. Now it is time for us, together, to exhibit the determination to make this vision of our state’s future a reality.

To truly invest in our state’s economy, we must work together to make further, long-term reinvestments in higher education.

1. The business community and the UW
   Develop funding strategies that acknowledge and support the UW’s value as an economic engine.

2. Philanthropy and the UW
   Secure additional philanthropic support.

3. Government leaders and the UW
   Increase funding for the UW and higher education.
   Ensure that the UW can compete for quality faculty.
   Explore adjustments to the GET program.
   Support the UW’s efforts to achieve additional administrative efficiencies.

To learn more, visit uw.edu/president/futures

The UW Impact, the UW Alumni Association’s legislative advocacy program, is proud to partner with the Washington Futures Committee’s Government Task Force. Together, these groups will work to advance the committee’s recommendations with state legislators and other elected officials who will be instrumental in securing significant and strategic state reinvestment in higher education.

The UW community also plays a critical role in restoring adequate public support for Washington’s colleges and universities. Renewed investment in higher education is sorely needed, when our UW’s citizens are informed, engaged and active toward this end.

UW Impact will activate its resources and networks to answer the Washington Futures Committee’s call to action. UW Impact will work the Government Task Force by:

- Mobilizing alumni and friends of the UW to strengthen public support for higher education
- Hosting community conversations in legislative districts to bring together constituents and their elected officials
- Delivering personal messages to Olympia to reinforce the value and economic impact of higher education and the UW

To learn more, visit uwimpact.org

The Washington Futures Committee—2013 report

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Enroll more undergraduates, both residents and nonresidents.
Keep tuition rates affordable and UW degrees accessible.
Attract the best and brightest students and faculty.
Deliver more science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees, especially in the fields of computer science and engineering.
Produce our next generation of leaders.
Invest in research to drive innovations and stimulate jobs.
Enhance commercialization and technology transfer efforts.
Use resources more efficiently and strategically.
Expand the use of technology in teaching and research.
Strengthen communications and outreach to key stakeholders.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Building on our state’s strengths

The state of Washington is a hub of creativity and innovation. But our state’s ability to continue to be a leader—in the region, the nation and the world—is at risk. For the state of Washington and the people of Washington to excel economically, culturally and socially, we need to provide residents with opportunities to pursue higher education; we need to work together to support research, commercialization and technology transfer efforts; we need to use our resources more efficiently and strategically.

Reinvesting in higher education is the most powerful way to fuel our economy and continue attracting the best and brightest people to our state.

As residents, as parents and grandparents, as entrepreneurs, as educators and as leaders, we all have a responsibility to the state of Washington and the people who call it home. Achieving our shared vision requires partnership across all sectors, both public and private.

And the time for action is now.

**MIND THE GAP**

There is a large and growing gap between the number of job openings in Washington and the number of qualified workers available to fill them.

Washington is forecasted to be one of the top five states for job openings requiring post-secondary education.*

Smart citizens, empowered communities

A healthy, vibrant economy goes hand in hand with an educated citizenry. Economists project that by 2018, 63 percent of available U.S. jobs will require at least some college education and 52 percent of those will require at least a bachelor’s degree. However, they also predict that at current production rates the post-secondary system will have produced three million fewer college graduates than needed by the labor market.


**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Creating a dynamic, thriving community

From promoting healthy lives to creating jobs and preparing tomorrow’s leaders, the UW plays a vital role in the state. The Washington Futures Committee outlined ten recommendations for the UW to increase its impact:

1. Enroll more undergraduates, both residents and nonresidents.
2. Keep tuition rates affordable and UW degrees accessible.
3. Attract the best and brightest students and faculty.
4. Deliver more science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) degrees, especially in the fields of computer science and engineering.
5. Produce our next generation of leaders.
6. Invest in research to drive innovations and stimulate jobs.
7. Enhance commercialization and technology transfer efforts.
8. Use resources more efficiently and strategically.
9. Expand the use of technology in teaching and research.
10. Strengthen communications and outreach to key stakeholders.