

The Highest Level of Integrity, Compliance, and Stewardship

The UW will always act on behalf of students, their families, and taxpayers by meeting high standards of performance and accountability demanded in today's global economy.

The UW invests state funds wisely. Good stewardship of fiscal resources is a core value the people of the UW share with all in Washington. This is particularly important in times of fiscal uncertainty. Strong financial stewardship and good management of resources have resulted in the UW's general revenue platform being awarded an Aa1 rating from Moody's and an AA+ from Standard and Poor's. Only three other public universities have a higher rating and just four others have a comparable rating.

THE UW CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON COST EFFICIENCY. SINCE 1995, STUDENT ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED BY 21% WHILE STATE FUNDED, FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING FACULTY, HAS INCREASED ONLY BY 8.5%.

The University is also actively participating in the state's "performance agreement" process to insure that performance metrics are aligned with state goals for higher education as well as state financial support.

Stewardship also means sustainability. The three UW campuses are some of the nation's greenest. The UW is one of only 11 schools making the honor roll in the Princeton Review's new Green Rating of colleges, a Sierra Club top-10 sustainable campus, and one of only 10 schools making an "A" grade on the 2008 College Sustainability Report Card. State capital investments have been used to make the three UW campuses energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable. As a founding member of the Seattle Climate partnership and the Leadership Circle of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, the UW has made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality. All new state-funded university buildings must be environmentally certified and 100% of UW electricity purchases come from renewable sources.

Reclaimed wetlands adjacent to UW Bothell are a real-world laboratory for student research. UW Tacoma has been hailed as a national model of sustainable urban development. The U-PASS program has won wide acclaim, encouraging transit use by subsidizing faculty staff, and student commuting on buses and trains. Despite a 22 percent growth in the UW's employee and student population since 1990, University-related peak hour traffic in 2005 was below levels of the early 1990s. More than 75 percent of the campus population commutes in something other than a single-occupancy vehicle.

New investment is also producing new, measurable results. And sustained investment by the state will be met by continually improved performance – from student retention and graduation to maintaining accessibility and affordability. The people of the UW are committed to having an even larger scholarship pool and further strengthening the UW's reputation for providing high-quality education at a reasonable price. They are committed to maintaining diversity and serving Washington students from all backgrounds and income levels. And they are also committed to continuing a strong track record of financial stewardship and maximizing state investment by leveraging funds from other sources.

In times of scarce resources, this commitment to performance and accountability ensures that investments in the UW will continue to reap large returns for our state and our people.

CONCLUSION: A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY THAT BUILDS LASTING PROSPERITY

The University of Washington is not just a collection of buildings or programs. It is a vital community of people – students, staff and faculty – committed to tackling our region's biggest challenges and to keeping Washington a dynamic place with a high quality of life. The UW is here to put the state of Washington's goals into action.

Research universities are among the most important assets any state or region possesses. Public investment in research universities and the students they educate pay big dividends, making it a smart use of money in times of fiscal health and in times of fiscal uncertainty.

That's why sustained, targeted investment in the UW today is a strategic investment in the future that will reap economic and social returns, now and for generations to come.

Together, we have made remarkable progress toward meeting our shared goals. It is now more important we make conscious efforts to sustain our strategic investments and protect the state of Washington's future.



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