to higher education since the 2008–2009 academic year.

We know if we work together, things can change—
for the better. But one year’s effort isn’t enough. To
create the leaders, thinkers and doers of tomorrow, we
need to support—even demand—that public higher
education is affordable and accessible for the next
generation of Washingtonians.

We’ve made progress. Now, let’s keep moving forward.

A CHANCE TO CONTINUE THE LEGACY

Public higher education was there for Lynn’s
grandmother, who was active in the League of
Women Voters and remained deeply interested in
world events her entire life. Public higher education
was there for Lynn’s mother, who later joined the U.S.
Foreign Service, serving in Japan, Korea, Austria and
Guatemala before returning to Seattle. State support
was there for Lynn, who has been a journalist for 10
years. In the midst of declining state support, Maddie
still graduated with dual degrees in business and environmental studies
and is now working to protect Puget Sound’s marine preserves.

But the question remains:
Will Washington public higher
education be there for
Lynn’s future grandchildren
and great-grandchildren?

Let’s make sure the
Husky legacy remains
strong by ensuring
public higher
education remains
strong.

We are, still, all in
this together.

WE BELIEVE IN A STATE

where our children have even better
educational opportunities than we had. But
this generation is at risk for being less educated
than their parents. Currently, Washington ranks
among the lowest states in both public higher
education funding per student and four-year
public higher education participation rates.

We must do better.

Washington’s next generation deserves access
to high quality, affordable public higher
education. Higher education is not only an
economic driver; it’s the key to empowering
individuals to reach their full potential.

IT’S TIME TO PUT THE PUBLIC BACK

in Washington public higher education. By
returning state investment to a “fair share” of
funding per student, we can make sure public
higher education is affordable and accessible
for the next generation.

During the 2013 legislative session, we need to:

► Re-invest state support in public higher
  education. This will allow the UW to
  minimize or eliminate tuition increases
  for the next two years.

► Fully fund student financial aid, such
  as the State Need Grant program.

GET ENGAGED
uwimpact.org

PUTTING THE PUBLIC BACK IN
PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Representing two of four generations of Husky women in their family, Lynn Thompson, ’78, and her daughter
Maddie Foutch, ’12, have been impacted by the significant decline in state funding for public higher education.
Investing in the future of our students and our state

BUILDING A HUSKY LEGACY

For Lynn Thompson, ’78, the University of Washington is more than just her alma mater. With four generations of Husky women in the family, it’s a tradition. Lynn’s grandmother, Gretchen Snow, ’23, attended classes taught by the legendary professor Edmond Meany. By the time Lynn’s mother completed her economics and business degrees from the UW in 1947, many things had changed—the Henry Art Gallery had become the first art museum in the state, the UW School of Nursing and School of Medicine trained their first classes of students, and Boeing tested the future of flight in the Kirsten Wind Tunnel on campus. But even as campus grew and evolved, one thing remained constant—state support for public higher education.

“My mom attended the UW during and just after World War II,” says Lynn. “The depression and war years were tough financially. If college hadn’t been affordable, my mother wouldn’t have been able to earn a degree.”

Thanks to the foundation of public support, a family legacy began.

AN ERA OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Last spring, Lynn’s daughter Maddie graduated cum laude from the UW. Over the generations, the UW transformed from a one-building schoolhouse to three campuses serving more than 51,000 students, plus a professional and continuing education program that reaches around 41,000 additional students each year. Technology revolutionized classrooms and the educational experience, extending learning opportunities beyond the traditional lecture hall. Tuition changed over the decades, too. Lynn remembers her tuition in the 1970s costing around $200 per quarter. “I received scholarships and grants that made it possible for me to live on campus instead of commuting from home,” she says, adding, “If tuition had been higher, the UW might have been out of reach.”

“A college education is one of the best investments a state can make in its young people.”

According to Lynn, “One of the things I loved about college was the sense that my background and family circumstances didn’t matter. What was important was whether I could think creatively, analyze problems and communicate effectively. So many people at the UW encouraged my potential.”

Because of public support for higher education, many students, including Lynn, had the opportunity to build on their potential by attending the UW.

WHAT’S CHANGED?

What about today’s students? When Maddie was a freshman in 2008, the economic recession took a toll on the state budget. During the four years Maddie attended the University, public support for the UW was cut by 50 percent. As a result, her tuition nearly doubled.

Keeping the UW affordable and accessible for Washington state residents requires public support. Tuition isn’t going up because University costs are skyrocketing. It’s going up because state support has eroded. Nearly every dollar raised in tuition revenue over the past four years has gone toward filling the hole where public investment used to be.

Total funding per student (state plus tuition) is $3,000 less today than it was in 2008 before the recession began. As a result, the burden of funding a public college education has dramatically—and unfairly—shifted from the state to students and their families. When Lynn was a Husky in the 1970s, the state provided approximately 75 percent of the funds to educate UW students. By the time Lynn’s daughter graduated in 2012, the state funded only 30 percent.

“We were lucky to be able to afford Maddie’s college costs, even as tuition spiked,” says Lynn. “But that may not be the case for other hardworking students who also deserve a chance at higher education.”

“A college education is one of the best investments a state can make in its young people,” Lynn adds. “The people who are given the opportunity to attend college often spend their lives repaying it with leadership, service and civic engagement. College shouldn’t just be for the rich or privileged. It should be open to anyone with a curious mind and an eagerness to learn.”

ENSURING AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Luckily, we may have finally turned the corner. Last year, thanks to a broad coalition of state legislators, students, faculty, University leadership, alumni, labor and business leaders—plus the momentum built by The Seattle Times Greater good Campaign—the state legislature passed the first budget with no new major cuts.