For more than 150 years, the University of Washington has made a lasting difference in our state by educating the next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers. The UW has campuses in Seattle, Tacoma and Bothell and operates a world-class academic medical center. Dedicated to research and public service, the UW is a key driver of our state economy and of the Northwest’s increasingly global reputation as a center of innovation and change.

2014 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

PRIORITY #1 PRESERVE THE 2014 TUITION FREEZE

Last year, the Legislature’s new investment in higher education allowed the UW to freeze resident undergraduate tuition for the first time since 1986. The UW is committed to a continued freeze in 2014 as long as there are no reductions in state funding.

PRIORITY #2 FULLY FUND THE STATE NEED GRANT

The State Need Grant (SNG) is vital to keeping the UW affordable and accessible to low-income and first-generation college students. Last year, 32,000 students were eligible for the SNG but went unserved. Fully funding the SNG is also vital to the UW’s successful Husky Promise program, a commitment to ensuring that students of all economic backgrounds have the opportunity to attend the UW.

PRIORITY #3 MAKE STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN WHAT’S NEXT

As the economy slowly recovers, small strategic investments in innovative work occurring at the UW can result in big economic impact. Investments in the University’s core strengths can produce measurable, high-impact outcomes for our state’s economy and its people.

UW at a Glance

- The UW’s overall economic impact in the state of Washington is $9.1 billion.
- The UW is the third largest employer in Washington state.
- More than 280 companies have been started by UW students and faculty or with UW technology.
- About 50% of UW undergrads graduate with no debt.
- UW serves more Pell-eligible students than the entire Ivy League combined.
- More than 53,000 students attend the UW, and another 47,745 take advantage of the UW’s Educational Outreach (UWEO) programs.
- The UW offers 41 certificate and 17 degree programs online, along with a variety of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Registrants for the UW’s MOOC classes on Coursera exceed one million.
Next Generation Medicine Institute for Protein Design (IPD)
The UW requests $1.5 million to support the recently formed Institute for Protein Design (IPD). Designed proteins have the potential to significantly reduce the time and cost it takes to improve medical care by providing earlier and more accurate diagnoses and targeted treatments. Dr. David Baker, an internationally recognized pioneer of protein design, leads the IPD. The requested funds will support the commercialization of projects to make sure this important research reaches patients as quickly as possible.

Next Generation Health Care Interprofessional Education (IPE) Initiative
The UW requests $688,000 for an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Initiative to support the transformation of health care professional training. As we work through the implementation of health care reform, the goal of this initiative is to provide next generation health care professionals with advanced skills in team based, patient-focused health care and expand access to care in underserved communities. To achieve this goal, graduate education for the UW’s six health care related disciplines (dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health and social work) will be coordinated through an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Initiative.

A key component of this initiative is service-learning opportunities to provide students with advanced, real-world skill development. These service-learning sites are typically clinics whose goal is to extend access to critical health care in underserved communities.

Next Generation STEM Education Expansion and Facility Roadmap
The UW requests $6.6 million for a tri-campus STEM facility planning and design roadmap to get ready for the next phase of STEM enrollment expansion. As the state’s largest producer of graduates in STEM disciplines, the UW has a leading role to play in helping fill the skills gap for workers with STEM degrees experienced by Washington employers.

The UW has been working in partnership with the state over the past two years to increase capacity in engineering and computer science. This partnership has been so successful that our facilities are reaching capacity. If we are going to continue to grow student access to these important programs and produce a next generation workforce, we need to begin a comprehensive facility planning and design effort now.

Next Generation Higher Education Performance Funding
In the 2013–2015 state budget, the Legislature created a task force to recommend methods and metrics for implementing a higher education performance funding system in Washington state. During the legislative interim, the Office of Financial Management convened stakeholders to produce recommendations for a performance funding model. The UW supports the task force’s recommendations and requests funding for the first phase of the program. Through this initiative, the six public baccalaureate institutions will commit to producing more degrees overall, producing more degrees in high-demand fields and serving more underrepresented students.