



Independent Colleges of Washington

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Gonzaga University • Heritage University • Pacific Lutheran University • Saint Martin's University • Seattle Pacific University
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With the help of our fans

Since 1953, Independent Colleges of Washington has provided scholarships directly to students and through the financial aid offices at our member colleges. 100% of raised funds go directly to colleges for scholarships to students.

Every year, Independent Colleges of Washington gains new cheerleaders and fans among those committed to broadening awareness of an independent education and increasing financial aid for all students.

In addition to our numerous new donors at all levels in 2008-2009, we welcome three new scholarships of \$10,000 or more to our fan base:

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation
HSBC Bank
Sterling Savings Bank

Together, Independent Colleges of Washington raised over \$1 million dollars in cash and in-kind donations, supporting hundreds of students in Washington State.

Thank you for investing in students!

Welcome Thayne McCulloh



Interim President Thayne McCulloh has taken the helm at Gonzaga University, replacing Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J. As president of Gonzaga, Dr. McCulloh also joins the board of directors of Independent Colleges of Washington, where he will team with the presidents of our nine other member colleges and more than two dozen corporate and community leaders in setting the direction for the association. McCulloh is not new to ICW; his previous work in financial aid, as vice president of administration, and as interim academic vice president connected him to us on many critical issues.

THE INDEPENDENT LEADER

News from the

Independent Colleges of Washington

October 2009

Go, team!

Everyone needs to work together in higher education

We at Independent Colleges of Washington believe that quality higher education is not a spectator sport. It takes more than just a talented student and an effective professor to make good learning happen. Colleges, government, businesses, and individuals are important parts of the team. We're fortunate to have all of these teammates working together in our state to create opportunities for students to receive a high-quality, academically rigorous independent higher education.

State and federal government go for the goal

Both the Washington State Legislature and Congress recognize the value and effectiveness of financial aid. Despite this year's difficult budget—Washington lawmakers had to bridge a budget gap of \$9 billion—they actually increased investment in need-based aid.

Congress is increasing the Federal Pell Grant awards for the next two years, boosting availability of loan capital and work study, and expanding assistance for veterans.

See page 3 to learn how state and federal governments are helping students and colleges with grants, charitable endowments, and tax credits.



Courtesy of Whitworth University

Colleges give significant aid

In the face of dwindling revenue from other sources, private colleges recognized that family budgets are hurting. The average tuition increase this year at independent colleges nationally was the lowest in 37 years.

At the same time, private colleges and universities across the country increased their own spending **on scholarships and financial aid by nine percent**—twice the rate of tuition increase. Some created new scholarship programs. See the story on PLU's Project Access on page 3. That continues a 10-year trend of institutions pouring significant resources into keeping their net price within the reach of all students.

YourStudentAid Story - Tell Us...

Our member colleges are expecting nearly 40,000 students to attend over the next year.

There are over 6,600 committed administrators, faculty and staff delivering the highest quality education and experiences.

And you, among our hundreds of donors and supporters, have a story about how student aid has helped you, or a student that you know, in the pursuit of higher education.

We have compelling statistics of how successful our colleges are, and we want the stories behind the numbers.

Email us your story and a photo or video, and refer a friend to share their story at: info@ICWashington.org

For the latest higher education news, visit

Businesses, foundations Contribute to student aid

Despite the rocky economy, donors again gave more than \$1 million to Independent Colleges of Washington to support scholarships and financial aid for students at our member institutions. As Todd Ruberg, one of our board members and the general manager of customer business development at Procter & Gamble in Issaquah, wrote in a July opinion column in the Puget Sound Business Journal:

“What we as a society – business, the legislature, individuals – very much need to do is pull together and commit to finding the wherewithal and the resources to increase our ability to tap and develop future talent, not to scrimp on higher education when our state and nation need to be preparing the leaders and job creators of the future.”

In Washington, thousands of students need financial assistance in order to pursue their education at one of our independent colleges or complete it within four years. Thank you for your investment in the next generation of community and business leaders, scientists, teachers and medical professionals. You are helping to ensure a stable and diverse pool of qualified employees ready to take on the challenges and opportunities the future may bring.

Invest in Washington's future

Three Ways You Can Help

1. Create a scholarship that supports your or your company's mission or business objectives
2. Receive recognition at all 10 of our colleges by funding a scholarship at the \$10,000 level
3. Contribute to our aligned scholarship fund to help students majoring in science, health care, math or business

For more information: www.ICWashington.org/donors/ or call Anne Cassidy at 206.623.4494.



Sophomore health sciences major Nadine

Singer has received a variety of scholarships to help her attend Walla Walla University.

“Financial aid has enabled me to take more credits so I can graduate on time, or sooner, so it's definitely a necessity for my education,” said Singer, who plans to go on to medical school. “Financial aid gives people the opportunity to get the education to do amazing things that might not otherwise have been possible.”

“What we as a society... need to do is pull together and commit to finding the wherewithal and the resources...to be preparing the leaders and job creators of the future.” Todd Ruberg, Independent Colleges



Governor Chris Gregoire signs House Bill 1119 authorizing UPMIFA, with Independent Colleges of Washington President Violet A. Boyer

“Project Access” rallies for aid

“Project Access” is Pacific Lutheran University’s response to the bite the economy has taken out of the pocketbooks of students and families. PLU figured it should increase institutional financial aid by nearly \$3 million dollars to meet the greater need faced by returning and new students. They moved money from other budget areas and found new operating efficiencies to get part of the way there, but needed some help. Thus, Project Access was launched.

PLU went to donors and asked them to fund \$3,500 scholarships to help students get a high-quality education. With 150 scholarships funded so far, they’re well on the way to a \$1 million dollar goal.

President Loren J. Anderson noted, “These are challenging economic times and the financial needs of our students and families are significant. Project Access is helping us assure access to a PLU education both for first-year and continuing students. And, even more important, it is linking our generous and caring donors with able and deserving students. In the process, donors find great satisfaction and students are both inspired and grateful.”



Independent Colleges of Washington

More help from the legislature

The Washington State Legislature expanded need-based financial aid for this biennium by \$57 million dollars. State Need Grants for low-income students at all colleges, public and private, will increase by a healthy amount to a maximum of \$6,876 for the lowest-income students in Washington. In addition, the legislature renewed support for state work study and put a cap on the amount of funding that can be used for out-of-state students.

The legislature also updated the rules governing charitable endowments. The “Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act” (UPMIFA) protects donor intent while giving institutions some flexibility in repurposing outdated, small endowments and in tapping funds during hard times.

“Colleges have to balance present day expenditures from endowments with long-term support for future generations, and they have to do that prudently in both bull and bear markets,” said Katherine Davis, associate vice president for treasury at University of Puget Sound. “UPMIFA provides specific guidelines that are particularly valuable when the waters roil as they have recently.”

Feds Catching up

After years of eroding spending power, Congress used stimulus funds to increase the Federal Pell Grant maximum award for this academic year and next to \$5,350. The stimulus package also increased work-study amounts, and replaced the Hope Tax Credit with a partially refundable American Opportunity Tax Credit of 10% to \$7,500

