



## Independent Colleges of Washington

With students from each of Washington's 39 counties and 135 years of history, the 10 **Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW)** award 21% of the baccalaureate and graduate degrees earned in the state of Washington.

### 2019 State Budget Priorities

**Fully fund the State Need Grant (Washington College Promise Scholarship) so all currently eligible students receive support, expand income eligibility, and make funding for the program reliable and predictable.**

ICW supports the proposals advanced by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)<sup>i</sup>:

- Fully and predictably fund the State Need Grant Program, ensuring that all eligible students receive the grant. (\$60M, in year 1; \$40M in year 2)
- Expand State Need Grant eligibility to serve students from 0-100 percent of the state's median family income. (\$47M/year)

Additionally, we urge that the proposed budget retain the structure of the State Need Grant that gives Washington students attending ICW campuses parity with state residents who attend our public research universities. Parity for students, regardless of whether they attend public and private institutions of higher education, is critically important and it is our hope the state will continue this policy moving forward, making permanent this proviso from section 609 in 2017-19 biennial budget:

*"For the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, grant awards given to private four-year not-for-profit institutions shall be set at the same level as the average grant award for public research universities. Increases in awards given to private four-year not-for-profit institutions shall align with annual tuition increases for public research institutions."*

**Reinvest in the State Work Study Program to provide students with job opportunities and support local businesses and not-for-profit organizations.**

- Expand career-connected learning opportunities through the State Work Study program, resulting in more than \$8 million in wages while serving an additional 3,000 students. (\$5M/year)

**Leverage capacity in high-demand programs at private, not-for-profit colleges and universities.**

As the state seeks to expand the number of degrees awarded in high-demand areas, we ask for the opportunity to be a part of the solution. Following models from other states, Washington could implement targeted programs of support to ensure that state residents can fill available seats currently available at ICW's 10 member campuses to help meet critical state needs.

Please direct questions or comments to ICW President & CEO Terri Standish-Kuon ([terri@icwashington.org](mailto:terri@icwashington.org), 206-623-4494) or our Olympia lobbyist Mike Burgess ([mikeburg@comcast.net](mailto:mikeburg@comcast.net), 360-223-3020).

# Strengthen a Public-Private Partnership that Delivers Results for Washington

## Extending the Partnership Makes Sense for Washington

Working together, we can encourage more state residents to attend colleges or universities in Washington, increasing the likelihood that they will remain in the state to live and work. With targeted investments, we can reduce the need for student and family borrowing and leverage the full range of educational opportunities present in the state.

## Washington's Need for Home-Grown Talent

Business leaders and state policymakers agree that a greater number of high school graduates and adults need to pursue higher education to meet the demands of our state's economy.<sup>ii</sup>

Companies look for the skills a liberal arts education delivers: the ability to work in a team, problem-solving skills, written and verbal communication skills and a strong work ethic.

## Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) Serving Washington

Our liberal arts-based, private, not-for-profit colleges play a critical role in the state's higher education ecosystem, **cultivating talent** and making it possible for more Washington residents to find their best fit – academically, developmentally, and socially – here at home.

With graduation rates among the highest in the nation and a commitment to educating the whole person, we are **delivering value** for our alumni and their families and for the communities we serve.

What's more, we are **championing diversity** in collaboration with public colleges, creating high-quality opportunities for students and smooth transfer pathways between sectors in preparing Washington's future workforce.

ICW member campuses are **powering economies** in many corners of the state, creating jobs and connecting students to jobs in their regions. Together they employ more than 8,000 people, making the collective one of the state's top 20 private sector employers.

With state and private support, we have the capacity to assist thousands of additional Washington residents in **completing degrees**, including in the fields of computer science, engineering, health care, and education.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2018.23.14.02.Budget.pdf>, accessed October 31, 2018

<sup>ii</sup> Both the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and the Washington Roundtable have set a 70% postsecondary credential attainment goal. WSAC's goal is for adults aged 25-44 to earn a credential by 2023; WA Roundtable's goal is for students graduating high school beginning in 2030. More information at: <https://www.wsac.wa.gov/roadmap> and <https://www.waroundtable.com>.

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