



# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2016

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The University of Washington appreciates the notable investments made in higher education — specifically in the UW — during the 2015 legislative session. Understanding that time and resources are limited in the supplemental session, the UW has chosen to highlight a small number of issues for the 60-day session in 2016. We firmly believe that these programs and investments will reinforce the University's core strengths and have lasting statewide benefit.

## OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES //

### ***Make the University whole: implementing the state's new tuition policy***

Following a 2013 investment that allowed the UW to freeze resident undergraduate tuition for the first time since 1986, the Legislature broke new ground in 2015 with its landmark tuition reduction policy. The new policy helps keep tuition affordable for Washington families and helps us maintain access to the high-quality UW education that our students expect and deserve. A critical piece of the new policy is the state's commitment to fully compensate institutions for the tuition revenue they will lose due to the reduction. As the tuition backfill in the adopted 2015-17 budget was based on 2013-14 enrollment numbers, we seek additional funding in line with current enrollments to make the UW whole (\$4.4 million).

### ***Expanding our successful rural dentistry program in Spokane***

The UW requests state funding to expand the University of Washington School of Dentistry's Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program in Spokane and Eastern Washington with the addition of a simulation lab and expanded clinical rotation opportunities for students. RIDE trains dentistry students to practice in rural and underserved areas, and partners with the UW School of Medicine, Eastern Washington University and community health centers to improve oral health across our state. RIDE has been a success: More than 75 percent of the program's graduates are now practicing in rural or underserved communities. This investment is the first step toward growing the program from eight to 30 students per year by 2020.

### ***Restoring fairness for public agencies paying leasehold excise tax***

The UW supports the ability of public property owners to pay for an assessment of property value. That assessed value can be used to claim a "credit" or cap on Leasehold Excise Tax (LET), which was removed from state law by a 2013 bill. In order to pay LET equivalent to the private property taxes paid by adjacent private property owners, this option and assessment is necessary. The unintended consequence of the 2013 deletion is that the UW is now paying additional excise tax from the account which otherwise pays for the University's repair and minor works projects. These projects are critical: They provide for repairs to roofing, plumbing, ventilation, exteriors and electrical systems, as well as safety and code compliance improvements like fire sprinklers, asbestos removal, seismic improvements and ADA modifications.

# CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES



## **Computer Science & Engineering: making more degrees a reality**

In the past decade, undergraduate majors in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) have increased by 60 percent, graduate majors increased 55 percent and annual enrollment in CSE's introductory courses has more than doubled. Despite that demand, the current Paul G. Allen Center is at capacity and must expand.



In the 2015 legislative session, the Legislature dedicated a total of \$32.5 million toward the estimated \$105 million project. Of that \$32.5 million, however, \$15 million was appropriated from the UW's own building account, which pays for desperately overdue repairs, maintenance and upgrades to aging buildings across our three campuses. In the 2016 session, we ask the Legislature to allocate \$15 million in the state bond funds and restore the building account funds to their intended and much-needed purpose (\$15 million).

# FAST FACTS: 2016



## **Affordability and access**

- Since before the recession, the number and proportion of **underrepresented minority students at the UW has increased, comprising 18.1 percent of the 2015 incoming freshman class**, compared to 10.5 percent in 2006
- The UW's 2015-16 resident undergraduate tuition and fee rate is \$11,839, which is **below the Global Challenge State peer mean and median**
- In 2015-16, about 54 percent of UW undergraduates will receive some form of financial aid, totaling over \$414 million
- Half of all UW undergraduates graduate with no known debt, and those who borrow graduate with less debt than the national average
- In 2015-16, 2,650 UW students are recipients of the College Bound Scholarship Program and 7,400 UW students are projected to receive the Washington State Need Grant

## **Awards and honors**

- The UW is one of the best universities in the world, ranked No. 11 globally by U.S. News & World Report, No. 15 globally by the Academic Ranking of World Universities and No. 7 nationally by Washington Monthly

## **Research and service**

- The UW **receives more federal research dollars than any other public university** in the nation — in FY15, the UW received \$1.3 billion in total research awards.
- The UW is one of the top five largest employers in Washington, supporting 79,331 jobs across the state
- In FY15, CoMotion **launched 15 new startups** and the UW was rated the **No. 1 most innovative public university** in the world by Reuters, which measured patent applications and impact

