



2016 Joint Legislative Agenda

Preparing Washingtonians to succeed in a 21st Century economy depends on equipping them with the educational opportunities that can only be provided by a diversity of colleges and universities.

The higher education community thanks policymakers for investing in college affordability and the quality of our colleges and universities in 2015. This foundation is key to building a strong and predictable future for students, families, and colleges and universities.

Ensure the Full Success of the 2015-2017 Biennium Investments

State funding for Washington's colleges and universities is key to an accessible, affordable high-quality education for Washingtonians. Funding should be prioritized to ensure colleges and universities receive sufficient state resources to implement our state's new tuition policy.

Serve the Low Income Students who Remain Unserved by Student Financial Aid

Develop renewed commitments for Washington's student financial aid programs as you refine the state's college affordability strategies to ensure all students have the resources to pursue postsecondary education:

- ✓ Develop a plan to serve the 27,000 low-income students who currently qualify but do not receive the **State Need Grant**
- ✓ Maintain the **College Bound Scholarship** program's commitment to students
- ✓ Ensure that the coordination of the State Need Grant and the College Bound Scholarship takes into account the need to serve the non-traditional student population
- ✓ Maintain the **State Work Study** program as it provides students with valuable work opportunities while helping to pay for their education

Advance Student Success and Achievement Investments

To increase student success, increased funding should be considered to:

- ✓ Recruit and retain **world-class** faculty to provide a high-quality learning environment for Washington students
- ✓ Enhance **student support programs** including advising, academic tutoring, and mental health support
- ✓ Expand **academic programs** across the state to meet student and employer needs

Streamline State Level Reporting Requirements and Support Regulatory Relief

- ✓ Partner with colleges and universities to improve business practices by eliminating outdated and duplicative reporting requirements.