

State Work Study: *Preparing Students for the Workforce*

Work Study in Review

Since 1974, the Washington State Work Study program has helped low- and middle-income students earn money for college and gain experience in areas related to their degrees and career interests.

The Washington State Work Study program provides students with the opportunity to develop career-ready skills and experiences to be competitive in today's economy

- ◆ State Work Study allows students to **develop valuable experience and career connections** while employers have **access to a well-educated workforce at a reduced-cost**.
- ◆ \$4 million in State Work Study funding to the public baccalaureate sector assisted **1,300 Washingtonians** in the pursuit of a degree in 2014-15.
- ◆ **Thirty-one percent** of State Work Study recipients attended one of Washington's public four-year institutions in 2014-15.
- ◆ **Fifteen percent of student aid came from State Work Study** in the public four-year sector in 2014-15.
- ◆ Research indicates that students who work between 10 and 19 hours per week **tend to persist in their degree programs at higher rates** than other financially needy students.

Student and employer demand for State Work Study exceeds program resources

- ◆ **The public four-year colleges and universities experienced a 51% decline** in state support for State Work Study, between 2010-11 and 2015-16, at a time when students and employer demand for State Work Study exceeded program resources.
- ◆ **A lack of state resources to support State Work Study negatively impacts students' ability to pay for college** as they go and may lead to additional borrowing while in school and greater debt at graduation.
- ◆ **The service level of the State Work Study program has declined to approximately 1 in 35 needy resident students.** Historically the program targeted a service level of 1 in 12 needy students.

Profile of State Work Study Recipients at Public Baccalaureate Institutions 2014-15

- ▶ **100%** are Washington residents
- ▶ **96%** attend full-time
- ▶ **95%** are below median family income
- ▶ **69%** are in the final two years of completing their degree
- ▶ **64%** are female
- ▶ **44%** are students of color
- ▶ **36%** are independent students
- ▶ **24%** are students 24 years or older
- ▶ **6%** are families with children

Sources:

1. WSAC State Work Study Program Manual 2016-17. <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-17.SWS.Program.Manual.pdf>
2. State Work Study Brief. <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2015.SWS.pdf>
3. Working for College: The Causal Impacts of Financial Grants on Undergraduate Employment. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis. March 23 2016.