



## **2023 Joint Legislative Agenda**

### ***Competitive Compensation for Faculty & Staff***

Recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty and staff remains the highest legislative priority for our 40 public colleges and universities. As we work to improve student access and success, inflation is undermining recent salary adjustments and their ability to cover the rising costs of living in our state.

We request salary adjustments to allow our vital faculty and staff to continue to live and work in our state and to attract exceptional professionals to our campuses. Importantly, in the last two biennia, the legislature has included “foundational support” for our institutions, which recognized that incremental tuition revenue is not sufficient to cover the unfunded portion of compensation increases. It is imperative that the legislature fully funds wage increases, benefits, and central services with state funding because the current model creates a budget deficit at the college level.

### ***Student Success & Workforce Development***

Your public colleges and universities are focused on providing accessible opportunities and meeting the needs of all Washingtonians. Our institutions request further state investment in student support and learning recovery strategies in the areas of:

- Housing insecurity
- Mental health support
- Academic advising
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Outreach and recruitment
- FAFSA/WASFA completion and financial aid counseling

In addition, Washington’s public colleges and universities request investments to help close our state’s greatest workforce shortages in cybersecurity, computer science, nursing, behavioral and mental health, teaching, advanced manufacturing, and other fields. These requests will help improve prosperity for our residents and better position Washington to meet the needs of a post-pandemic economy and evolving job market.

### ***Campus Facilities & Critical Infrastructure***

State investment is critical to maintain and modernize our aging campuses and ensure we provide effective teaching and learning environments for the next generation of students. We request funds in the operating budget for preventive maintenance and building repairs, which would remove the burden from institutional building accounts. This shift would significantly boost capacity for preservation projects, which supports maintenance, code compliance, life/safety issues, as well as energy efficiency. We are grateful to see this reflected in the Governor’s Proposed Biennial [Budget](#).

We are also advancing ambitious but necessary capital budget proposals that will help our campuses meet the state’s workforce needs with modern, safe, and accessible classrooms and lab spaces. Many of these proposals also advance the energy efficiency of our campuses and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.