



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020



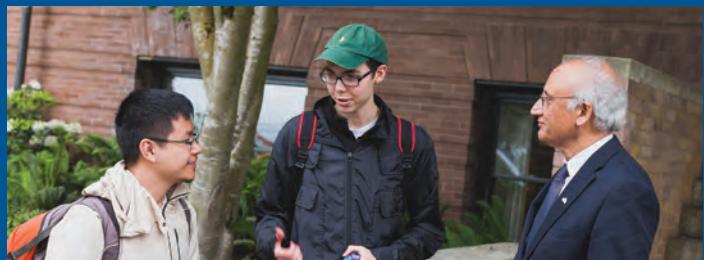
Dear Friends of Western Washington University,

It is an understatement to say that the 2019-20 academic year has been the most unusual and challenging year in my 30 years in higher education. Since March, our lives have been upended by the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus, compounded by a racial justice reckoning long overdue in America, and in the West we have faced the specter of unprecedented wildfires that remind us that climate change is the single largest public health threat of our lifetimes.

I cannot underscore enough the commitment and work of our faculty and staff during these challenging times, pivoting in short order to provide remote education, telehealth and tele-counseling, and a host of student and faculty support services from a distance. And, thankfully, our students have been wonderfully understanding during this process.

In spite of these challenges, we have been able to continue to deliver on several of our commitments quite effectively. I am proud to share with you some highlights:

- At the start of the 2019-20 academic year we welcomed our most diverse incoming class to Western, with almost 27% students of color and nearly a third identifying as first-generation students. We also had a very strong recruiting year for the University Honors Program. And for Fall 2020, in a year in which recruitment was impacted by the pandemic, our student body includes 28.1% students of color, another record high for the university, and Honors enrollment increased by nearly 9% from last year.
- We graduated more than 3,900 students in 2019-20, again a strong performance even though the latter part of the year was overshadowed by the pandemic.
- Our focus on student retention and persistence, and all the hard work that goes with it, resulted in a small but important increase in the first-year retention rate. That's a good start and continued focus is critical to attain our bold aspirations in retention and graduation. You can read more about our progress on the following pages.
- We received legislative funding for Western's programs on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. While Governor Inslee vetoed all other new higher education funding requests due to the economic fallout from the pandemic, Western nonetheless received new annual funding to reduce tuition rates for self-supported degree programs and to bring them in line with state-funded programs on the main campus. This will result in a near 60% reduction in the annual cost of tuition for most students at Western on the Peninsulas.
- Additionally, the legislature gave us authority to offer the Applied Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.), which is slated to begin in fall 2021. This is an important step in our plans to intentionally increase and expand graduate programs and graduate student enrollments at Western.
- We expanded the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Hiring Initiative from a pilot of eight positions in 2017-18 to all new faculty positions in 2019-20. Of the 20 faculty hired



this year, 41% identified as belonging to a racial or ethnic minority group, and 63% identified as women.

- We have initiated a number of new certificate programs, revised summer course offerings and introduced a new Summer Session scholarship program. Changes in Summer Session have resulted in a 10% year-over-year increase in summer headcount enrollment and a nearly 17% increase in student FTE.
- We have raised close to \$13 million toward our \$20 million goal for the capital campaign for the new Electrical Engineering and Computer Science building, and over \$10 million for the Student Success fundraising initiative.

In the middle of the health pandemic, we have been challenged by a much longer-term crisis. The call to overturn systemic racism and oppression, once and for all, has been heard loud and clear at Western. Over the summer, the Board of Trustees and the senior leadership team read the book "How to be an Antiracist," by Ibram X. Kendi. Reading this book, and talking to our Black students, faculty and staff has reminded me that we tend to focus on the deficiencies of people rather than policy and of the importance of evaluating perspectives through the eyes of others, including examining our educational systems through those multiple and diverse lenses.

As we start another academic year, our commitment to advance inclusive excellence and pursue justice and equity in our programming, policies and practices is central to our plans and strategies. We have made progress, but it has not been fast or ambitious enough. The Board of Trustees underscored its commitment to holding us accountable in a resolution affirming that Black Lives Matter at their June meeting.

Even though 2020 has been a year unlike any in our lifetimes, we rose to the challenge and we have done well in difficult circumstances. As we continue to navigate Western through the pandemic and its economic aftermath, I know that we will continue to do what is needed to advance Western's mission and priorities, including increasing equity of access and equity of outcomes, and to live out our values in creating the institutional culture our students demand—because that is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,



Sabah Randhawa, President

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY AFFIRMING THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring that Western Washington University provides access to transformational higher education for the people of the State of Washington, pursues justice and equity in its policies and practices, and supports the dignity of all students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, over the past several weeks we have again been reminded that police brutality and disregard for the lives of Black people is not only tolerated, but historically and intentionally interwoven in the social fabric of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the violent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless others who have come before them are connected to centuries-long systemic inequities for Black people in the criminal justice system, healthcare, housing, employment, and education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes that our Black students, faculty, staff and their loved ones experience the daily realities of these inequities, and that the trauma of these recent acts of racial violence has been compounded by the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on the Black community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees stands in solidarity with the Black community, and wants our Black students, faculty, and staff to know that we see you, we hear you, and we care deeply about your future; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees maintains that affirming "Black Lives Matter" does not in any way diminish the value of other lives, but simply proposes the long overdue elevation of Black people's lives to equal consideration with the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees supports the University Administration in its recent messages and actions to advance equity and inclusive success for Black students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees holds the University Administration accountable for making measurable progress on its stated strategic plan goals of increasing first-year retention and graduation rates for students of color and Pell Grant eligible students, increasing the overall percentage of students of color at Western to 30-35% and of faculty of color to 18-23% by 2025, and for increasing the representation of people of color among administrative and academic leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University affirms that Black Lives Matter, and that identifying and addressing the root causes of racial inequities in Western Washington University's policies, procedures, and outcomes for our Black students, faculty, and staff is inseparable from the fulfillment of the institution's mission and strategic plan, and to living up to its stated values and ideals.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its regular meeting on June 12, 2020.

ATTEST:



Earl W. Overstreet II, Chair



John M. Meyer, Secretary

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE SUCCESS

"Here Too – WWU," created by WWU's theatre students and faculty, wins national awards

Students and faculty in Western's Department of Theatre and Dance have a long history of devising and producing plays from the ground up. Earlier this year, their most recent production, "#Here Too – WWU" was honored as one of the nation's best college theatre productions.

"#Here Too – WWU" explores stories of gun violence, survivors and activism, as told through the words of young people with first-hand knowledge. Deeply collaborating with Theatre Professor Rich Brown, students conducted interviews, devised the script, and designed every facet of the play from the staging, lighting and costume design to publicity and marketing.

In July 2020, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival honored the play with its Citizen Artist Award and for Distinguished Company-Generated or Devised Work, along with awards for Outstanding Lead Devisers of a Company-Generated Work for Brown and guest artist Barbara Pitts McAdams.

Western's production is part of a nationwide "#Here Too" series of

plays "amplifying the voices of young activists asking for gun sense and gun control for the safety of their education," says Brown, who has been collaborating with students on devised productions at Western since 2008. In 2012, Brown also received the Kennedy Center's Outstanding Lead Deviser award for the student production of "Us."

Twenty-two students were involved with "Here Too – WWU," including a student who was friends with a survivor of the Marysville-Pilchuck High School shooting in 2014. That survivor's story became a character through-line for the whole play.

The student playwrights sought to include a diverse array of experiences and communities, bringing to light the story of a young Latinx activist from the Bronx, and the story of the 2005 mass shooting on the Red Lake Indian Reservation in which 10 people died, including the 16-year-old perpetrator.

The nationwide "#Here Too" project is organized by Pitts-McAdams, one of the founding members of NYC's Tectonic Theatre Project, who reached out to Brown, thanks in part to the national reputation Brown and his students have developed for award-winning student-devised productions.

WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:

INCLUSIVE SUCCESS	2017-18	2018-19	TARGET 2024-25
First-year Retention Rate			
Overall	81.2%	81.4%	87-90%
Students of Color	78.9%	79.3%	87-90%
Pell Grant Eligible	74.2%	76.5%	87-90%
Six-year Graduation Rate			
Overall	69.1%	68.5%	75-80%
Students of Color	67.8%	64.3%	75-80%
Pell Grant Eligible	65.4%	61.7%	75-80%
Transfer Four-year Graduation Rate			
Overall	74.8%	73.8%	75-80%
Students of Color	76.4%	71.9%	75-80%
Pell Grant Eligible	71.7%	73.3%	75-80%



"#Here Too – WWU" explores gun violence through the stories of young survivors and activists.

Pitts McAdams is an accomplished actor, theatre teacher and dramaturg, which is a behind-the-scenes role that works closely with the playwright. She came to Western in summer 2019 for a two-week intensive workshop with students to create the script and perform a stage reading. After incorporating feedback from the audience, the students developed the script, then mounted the full production in fall 2019 under Brown's direction. In February, the group was invited to perform "#Here Too – WWU" at the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Plans to incorporate Western's contribution to the "#Here Too" project, including a reading in New York City in March 2020, have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Brown hopes some of the young voices Western students brought to the local stage will eventually see a national audience.

In the meantime, the students who participated in "#Here Too – WWU" have the tools to keep telling stories on stage, both their own and those of others.

"The whole reason I teach devising and go present about it at other universities is to empower other young artists to make their own works," Brown says. "So when they leave the university, they aren't beholden to a casting director to cast them. They have learned the tools and techniques to create work from their own experience and their own interests, and they know how to produce the work."

Creating a more inclusive capstone course for geologists

A galvanizing rite of passage for students seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in geology at Western has always been Field Camp, five to six weeks mapping, sampling, categorizing rocks and interpreting the landscape throughout the West.

"Many students view it as a type of boot camp that has prepared them for their next step, whether that is a move on to graduate school, or to a career," said Assistant Professor of Geology Robyn Dahl.

But Field Camp hasn't been accessible to students with physical limitations, those with family obligations, or who need summer jobs. Without Field Camp, they obtained a Bachelor of Arts in geology instead of a B.S.

Now thanks to the hard work of faculty, and Dahl's three-year, \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, the department is developing Lab Camp.

Lab Camp will be six weeks at Shannon Point Marine Center immersed in geochemistry, remote sensing via satellite data and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), and computer modeling projects.

These are all crucial skills for geologists, Dahl says, whether they work in the field or in lab research. "We want all of our students to have an opportunity to develop as a successful geoscientist, and to determine what types of research skills and environments they are best suited for and most comfortable in," she said.

Pandemic Response: Keeping kids connected

COVID-19 hit right in the middle of Natalie Reeder's student teaching assignment at Cascadia Elementary School in Ferndale. In those uncertain early weeks of the pandemic, Reeder drew on her training at Woodring College of Education to develop an online platform to keep her fifth-graders in touch with their teachers while school was closed. The district's fifth-grade teachers recognized Reeder's contributions to distance learning, and the Seattle resident was named the 2020 Outstanding Graduate in Elementary Education.



INCREASING WASHINGTON IMPACT

Unlocking the Recycling Potential of Ocean Plastics

At first glance, the forested coastlines of Afognak Island, part of Alaska's Kodiak Archipelago, look like miles of deserted beaches left to the care of the island's brown bears and Roosevelt elk.

But look closer. The enormous North Pacific Gyre ocean current sweeps hundreds of thousands of pounds of the world's ocean plastics up onto the beach each year.

Western Washington University associate professor of Engineering and Design John Misasi and his team of undergraduate students are working to understand how the world could best use these discarded plastics; proving their commercial viability could create a robust market.

"Most ocean plastics that wash up on the shores of places like Kodiak have, in some way, degraded from their original chemical composition," Misasi says. "But that doesn't mean they don't have value as recyclables. What we are trying to do is figure out how these ocean plastics, in their various degrees of degradation, can be broken down, mixed, and recombined into new compounds just as good – or better – than their original form."

One of Misasi's students, Christofer Owen of Sammamish, spent five days at Afognak in September 2019 as part

of a beach cleanup effort funded by a grant through the Ocean Plastics Recovery Project, the Island Trails Network and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.

Fishing gear, nets, buoys, shoes, large and small chunks of Styrofoam ... the beaches of Afognak had them all, Owen says.

"We pulled 5,000 pounds of old nets off of Afognak's beaches," he says. "A storage container washed off a ship seven years ago that was full of plastic flyswatters, and some of them are still washing up on Afognak today. These things just don't go away."

Misasi, Owen and fellow plastics and composites engineering major Molly House of Auburn, want to build new compounds made from plastics washed up on Kodiak-area beaches.

These plastics have all been altered by their exposure to ultraviolet light and saltwater, House says.

"What we've been doing is taking these plastics, cleaning them, grinding them up and then putting them into our extruder and then building new compounds from them to see how or if these new compounds made from ocean plastics can be incorporated back into new products," she says.

So far, House said the results have been extremely encouraging, and have produced compounds using three major plastic types that were far more elastic and less brittle than compounds made from just one type of recycled plastic.

Now, she says, the challenge is to make the process easier to scale up.

WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:

WASHINGTON IMPACT	2017-18	2018-19	TARGET 2024-25
Degrees Awarded			
Total	3,826	3,907	4,200-4,500
Graduate	308	255	350-375
State's High Need Areas	1,261	1,289	1,450-1,500
Students of Color			
	25.6%	26.9%	30-35%
Enrollment			
Outside Western's Main Campus & Extended Education	6.0%	6.6%	8-10%



Photo by Max Roney, '07

Research on improving sustainability is a hallmark of Western's Plastics and Composites Program.

Western's Plastics and Composites Program Named Among the Nation's Best

Western's Plastics and Composites Engineering program was recently ranked as one of the best such programs among public colleges across the nation by Plastics Today trade magazine.

"There are a number of interesting research projects in the program right now, including work to recycle and reuse ocean plastics, the development of 3D printer materials for specialized applications, and work on developing recyclable composite materials," says Professor Jeff Newcomer, chair of the Engineering and Design Department.

Plastics and Composites Engineering is one of four accredited programs available in the Engineering & Design Department; Electrical and Computer Engineering, Industrial Design, and Manufacturing Engineering are also offered.

The ranking noted that Western "touts its well-equipped labs that ensure graduates are proficient with production-scale processing equipment, quality assurance strategies, and characterization techniques."

State support means lower tuition for students on the peninsulas

Many students working on four-year degrees at Western programs on the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas will pay less tuition thanks to the Washington State Legislature.

Western will receive \$886,000 in continuing annual funding from the State Legislature to reduce tuition rates up to \$6,000 annually and enhance access for undergraduate students in most four-year degree programs offered by Western in Bremerton, Poulsbo and Port Angeles.



Western on the Peninsulas programs that will see lower tuition are: Business Administration, Environmental Science, Environmental Policy, and Education with endorsements in Elementary and Special Education. Tuition rates for resident undergraduate students in those academic programs will be lowered beginning this fall.

The state already subsidizes the Cybersecurity and Early Childhood Learning programs offered on the peninsulas.

Pandemic Response: Students mobilize to help with testing

As local health officials scrambled to expand access to COVID-19 testing in Whatcom County last spring, a team of undergraduate and graduate students from WWU stepped in to assist Northwest Laboratory become one of the state's first high-capacity testing labs.



The students already had the necessary technical skills they learned through their lab courses, so Northwest Laboratory trained them on basic safety and medical privacy procedures.

"Coming from Western, it's been nice working with the community and contributing to assist with the pandemic," says Riley Haner, a fourth-year biology undergraduate student from Klickitat County, who responded to the call for trained technicians.

ENHANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Students Dive Deep for Answers on Gulf of Mexico Research Cruise

On board the R/V Atlantis in late February, Assistant Biology Professor Shawn Arellano and five Western undergraduate students cruised the Gulf of Mexico—and dove deep beneath the surface—to research deep sea larvae and other marine creatures.

The National Science Foundation-funded research cruise included several trips to the sea floor aboard the DSV Alvin, the same submarine that explored the Titanic wreck. Two lucky undergrads joined the small crew on the Alvin diving as much as 3,280 feet to place equipment on the ocean floor to measure the local ecosystem. The vehicle was also equipped with a biobox to store specimens and cameras to film the dive sites.

“It’s very unique to be able to conduct those kinds of experiments as an undergraduate, especially on deep-sea creatures,” says Dexter Davis, a junior Environmental Science major from Seattle.

“We were one of the first to see these free-swimming mussel larvae, which just looked like a little

swimming shell,” Davis says. “It wasn’t easy, but it was well worth it and one of the most valuable experiences of my undergrad career.”

The students spent most of their days running experiments, collecting larvae samples for Arellano, and helping fellow students on their projects. The collaboration gave students an even broader research experience, says Esmeralda Farias, a senior biology major from Duvall.

“Wherever we were needed, we were happy to help,” says Farias.



WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	2017-18	2018-19	TARGET 2024-25
Tenure/Tenure-track Faculty Total Faculty Percent U.S. Faculty of Color	537 16.6%	544 18%	600-625 18-23%
Students Graduating with High-Impact Experiences (undergraduate research, global learning, community-based learning, internships, capstone courses and projects)	74%	81%	TBA
Research Research & Sponsored Programs Annual Revenue University Supported Research & Creative Activity	\$13.1M \$6.6M	\$12.0M \$5.9M	\$15-20M \$7-9M

*Questions regarding HIPS have been added to the Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) undergraduate exit survey and will be reported beginning in 2020.



WWU student and Hollings Scholarship recipient Dexter Davis cleans an ocean acidification sensor as a volunteer with North Sound Stewards in Bellingham.

Western students lead the state in prestigious Hollings Scholarships

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded 2019-20 Hollings Scholarships to WWU students Dexter Davis of Seattle, Spencer Johnson of Olympia, and Vail Dark of Boise, Idaho. In addition to these three Hollings Scholars from Western, Ildiko Kremper, an Everett Community College student who has since transferred to Western, was also awarded the Hollings Scholarship. She was one of only a handful of students nationally to have won a Hollings Scholarship while attending community college. This means four out of the five Hollings Scholars in Washington are current Western students.

The fellowship provides up to \$9,500 a year for two years of full-time study for recipients during their junior and senior years of college, along with a 10-week, full-time paid internship at a NOAA facility during the summer before their senior year, and opportunities to present research and attend scientific conferences.

Pandemic Response: Almost overnight, Western shifted to remote learning

Remote learning isn't what most Western students had planned when they began their college careers, and it's not how most faculty had planned to teach, either. But in March 2020, WWU faculty responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by moving at lightning speed to convert their courses to a remote format.

Almost overnight, faculty members scrambled to completely transform their course delivery systems, to finish out winter quarter. With little time to reflect and prepare for spring quarter, they turned around and delivered all of spring quarter classes remotely as well.

"I have been greatly impressed by the many ways in which our faculty, staff and students have mobilized to prepare for this quarter with a spirit of innovation and exploration," President Sabah Randhawa wrote in a message to the campus community before spring quarter.

Vital student services such as Academic Advising, the Tutoring Center, the Counseling Center and Career Services also moved quickly to deliver the resources students need for academic success. University administration collaborated with the Associated Students on free weekly food distribution to students in need due to jobs lost in the pandemic.

Over the summer, hundreds of WWU faculty members set aside their more typical research endeavors and devoted time to intensive professional development workshops on best practices in remote learning. More workshops will be offered winter quarter as faculty continue to refine their remote teaching techniques.

Meanwhile, Western is also offering at least three short-term credential programs designed for a remote format. Huxley College of the Environment's Data Science and GIS certificates, for example, are popular with students looking for a credential to raise their job prospects. And the Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership Certificate is a new program aimed at boosting women's career trajectories, and is particularly timely amid a pandemic that is widening the gender wealth gap.

Moving quickly and drastically to transition the entire university to remote instruction has saved lives, even at extraordinary cost, Randhawa wrote to campus. But now is also the time for optimism, Randhawa writes: "I have faith in human resilience, adaptability and ingenuity, and I believe we will come out of this crisis stronger and more deeply connected than ever before."

WESTERN FOUNDATION REPORT

Life is different these days—it's all we talk about. We each have stories of family and friends, challenges, and successes.

Yet, our mission in the Western Washington University Foundation remains the same: to invite support from our generous and loyal alumni, parents, friends, businesses, and foundations to help young people succeed in college and beyond as great citizens. In these trying times, endowments for Western make a momentous difference because we can count on funds being available year after year. It's that stability factor we seek when so much is unsettled.

I have been heartened and grateful to see the outpouring of gifts to Western over the past months.

Contributions have topped \$125,000 to the Student Emergency Fund, which helps students impacted by COVID-19 with real-world expenses like rent, internet access, supplies and technology. That is a noteworthy amount in a short time, and yet these basic student needs far, far exceed what we have to offer. We also initiated a new scholarship fund for racial equity. It launched with significant gifts from alumni and Bellingham businesses who want to help students impacted by systemic racism and bigotry. It's a strong start.

Thanks to a generous lead commitment from Fred Kaiser, Grace Borsari, and other individuals and foundations, we have raised nearly \$13 million toward our \$20 million capital campaign to construct a new Computer Science and Electrical Engineering building on campus. It's one of our most ambitious campaigns ever, and our first to support construction costs at Western.

Our fifth annual Give Day was the most successful ever, with an all-time high of 2,400 donors contributing \$780,000 in 24 hours—despite the pandemic. We are

grateful for the generosity of those who are in a position to help others at any level. It is heartwarming and meaningful that our Western community cares so much.

Now more than ever, Western leadership is making equity our highest priority: equity of student access, equity of student experience, and equity of student outcomes. Over the last two years, supporters have contributed \$11 million to help educate and empower an increasingly diverse student body; of that, donors provided \$5 million to our focus on scholarship support for incoming students, research and creative activities and study abroad experiences. You can expect to hear more from us over the next few years about how private support can make a measurable difference in student retention, graduation rates and student success.

While there are still many unknowns in our world, one thing is crystal clear: Western Washington University is the beneficiary of a remarkable and committed group of donors. Thank you for stepping up to help. Thank you for giving what you can. Thank you for your unwavering support. And most of all, thank you for caring about higher education and the students working to earn degrees to make a difference in our communities.

Thank you for your belief in Western Washington University. We are grateful.

Stephanie Bowers

*Vice President,
University Advancement
President and CEO, WWU Foundation*

TOTAL VALUE OF GIFTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE UNIVERSITY



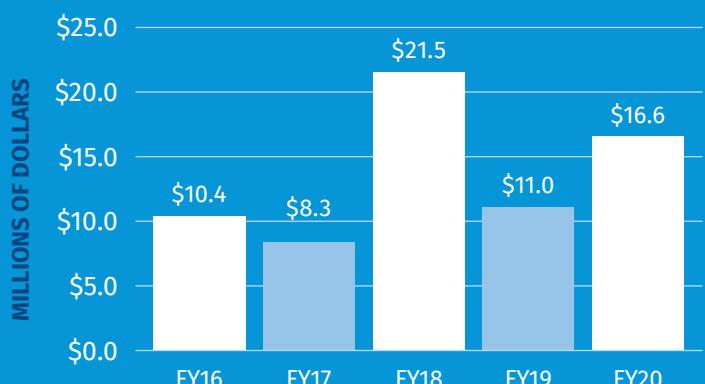
Over the past 10 years, the amount of support provided by the Foundation to the University has grown from just over \$5.0 million annually, to over \$7.5 million today.

TOTAL ENDOWMENT ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

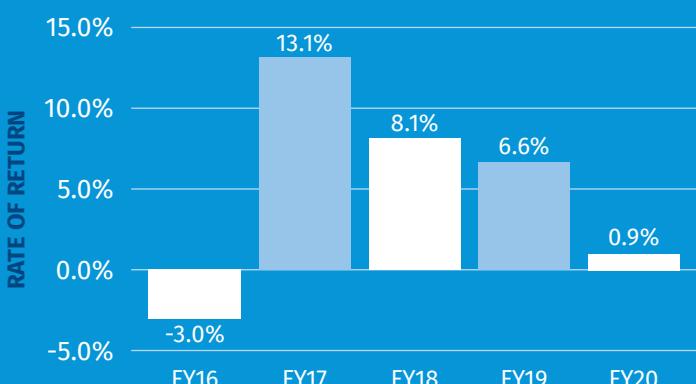


Total Endowment Assets Under Management includes assets owned directly by the Foundation, as well as endowed assets managed by the Foundation on behalf of the University.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WWU FOUNDATION BY FISCAL YEAR



ENDOWMENT FUND RETURNS



FIVE YEAR LOOK AT SCHOLARSHIPS AND DOLLARS AWARDED

Academic Year	# of Awards	Increase from previous year	Amount Paid	Increase from previous year
19-20	1628	62	\$2,894,774	\$25,685
18-19	1566	99	\$2,869,089	\$327,191
17-18	1467	123	\$2,541,898	\$75,561
16-17	1344	39	\$2,466,337	\$92,150
15-16	1305	8	\$2,374,187	\$151,532
14-15	1297		\$2,222,655	

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Earlier this year, Western Washington University received an unprecedented \$10 million gift from longtime supporters and business partners Fred Kaiser and Grace Borsari. Their lead gift, the university's largest single private donation, supports Western's Building Washington's Future, a capital campaign which aims to raise \$20 million by late fall 2020.

The campaign will fund a new Computer Science and Electrical Engineering Facility to house the university's burgeoning electrical engineering, computer science, and energy science programs. In addition to the gift from Kaiser and Borsari, the Norcliffe Foundation has made a commitment of \$2 million and the Sunderland Foundation contributed \$500,000.

The Washington State Legislature allocated \$2 million for design-related expenses in 2019 and has signaled its intent to allocate \$46 million for construction in the 2021-2023 capital budget for Western with the understanding that the university will secure additional private funding.

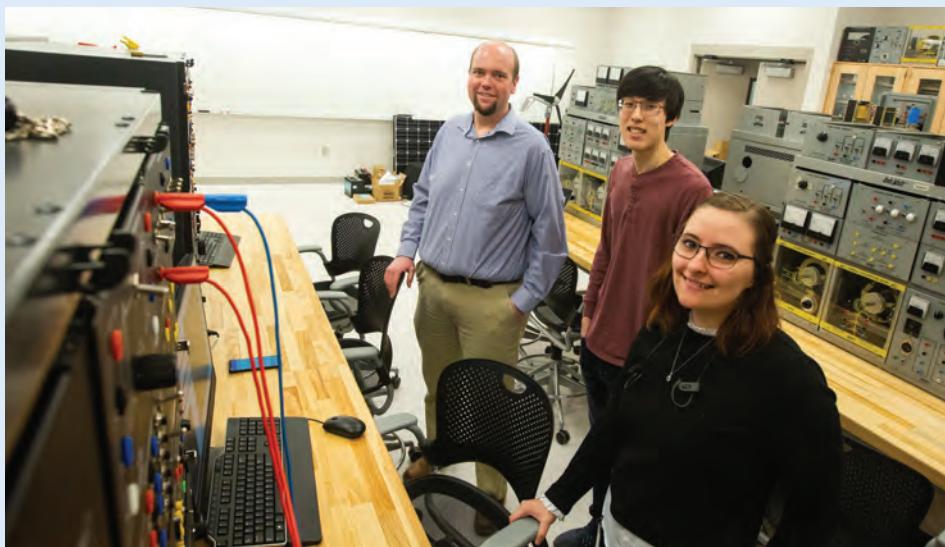
"It has always been our priority to invest in education as it pays the highest dividends to all stakeholders," according to Kaiser and Borsari.

The University has engaged internationally acclaimed sustainable design expert Jason F. McLennan to guide the net-zero energy/zero carbon design strategy for the building. The building will exceed LEED standards for energy use, carbon and other environmental indicators, and will pursue certification through the International Living Future Institute.

When complete, Kaiser Borsari Hall will be the region's only carbon neutral academic facility, and among only a handful in the nation. The building will significantly advance Western's vision to become the region's first carbon neutral university campus.

The new Kaiser Borsari Hall will also create additional space for interdisciplinary collaboration and experiential projects in partnership with industry, allowing students to solve real-world problems. The expansion of these programs will also help feed the nation's growing demand for employees educated in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. In addition, the new space will allow for an increase in diversity, equity, and inclusiveness through changes to the curriculum, classroom design, and recruitment.

"Washington is among the top five states in technology sector job growth," says Brad Johnson, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, "but we don't produce nearly enough graduates. Our classrooms will be re-engineered to include more user-friendly features, and we will offer a greater number of opportunities for collaborative, project-based learning in groups. With more seats, the college will also be able to recruit more broadly."





Kaiser Borsari Hall, as rendered in these images from architecture firm Perkins + Will, will create space for interdisciplinary collaboration and experiential projects.

Recent graduate Riley Hernandez, '20, B.S., electrical engineering and mathematics, is excited about what this expansion will mean for future Western students.

"I'm very happy about the new lab spaces," Hernandez said. "There are not enough computers and instruments right now because of space constraints. We have to rotate among labs to get space, and that can be hard."

For her senior capstone project, Hernandez developed a portable

universal battery converter that transfers power between multiple devices. Her project could help PACCAR, a leader in truck design and manufacturing, ensure their vehicles have sufficient battery power to supply ample heat, air conditioning, and lighting to cabs during overnight stops.

To date, the campaign has generated nearly \$13 million in gift commitments and gifts received, with an additional \$3 million in pending requests. The new construction is planned for completion in 2023.

Fred Kaiser and Grace Borsari

Fred Kaiser and Grace Borsari are business partners, entrepreneurs and founders of Bellingham-based Alpha Technologies. Established in 1975 as a supplier of backup electrical power sources for cable television systems, the company grew to become the provider of backup power equipment for a wide range of telecommunications and broadband customers and was acquired in 2018 by EnerSys, a global leader in energy storage systems.

For more than two decades, they have supported Western with over \$2 million in previous giving, including: \$1 million to the Institute for Energy Studies to name the Alpha Technologies Electrical Engineering Lab; support for a professorship in the College of Business and Economics; scholarships in computer science, engineering, and advanced materials science, with a particular focus on women and students from diverse backgrounds; and, annual support for intercollegiate athletics through the Viking Night auction.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, AND WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT THIS PROJECT, HERE:

foundation.wwu.edu/building-washingtons-future

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Student Emergency Fund helps students remain focused on their graduation goal

It's never too late to learn. Jabez Richard, a 38-year-old returning college student, knows this very well.

"Four years ago, I quit drinking and started to turn my life around," Richard says. "I applied for the Jordan Slagle Rooted Generosity Scholarship through my work at Boundary Bay Brewery. It was the push I needed to re-enroll. The scholarship is in honor of my friend who passed away a week after I quit drinking, so I consider my efforts in school to be a tribute to him."

Now studying creative writing, literature and film, Richard's favorite experience at Western so far has involved words, specifically poetry.

"I took a poetry class with Stefania Heim," he says. "The environment was so safe and encouraging that by the end of the quarter I felt like we all were bonded through the experience. I think this was also the first class in which I openly acknowledged my gender fluidity."

Richard and his partner have two daughters together. Going to school, being a parent, and balancing a job have posed considerable challenges, but his professors are understanding and helpful, he says.

When COVID-19 hit, the university came to his family's aid. "When the quarantine went into effect, the Western Student Emergency Fund saved my family," Richard says.

Generous Western alumni, parents and friends contributed more than \$125,000 to the Emergency Fund to help students like Richard navigate the financial challenges that befell so many.

"I was motivated by the thought of being able to help a student and relieve a small bit of the extreme stress they must feel in this crisis," says donor Stuart Corcoran, '82, B.S., math/computer science. "I am also motivated generally by a desire to 'give back' to WWU. The education I received was the foundation of my successful career, which in turn allows me the means to provide financial support."

A 2018 Spanish graduate, Lucero Manjarrez-Mendoza, agrees.

"I chose to donate due to my own experience as a low-income, first-generation, work-study student at Western," Manjarrez-Mendoza says. "It was always challenging not just making ends meet, but a lot of the time I couldn't even afford \$50 for a bus ticket home. I often had to ask friends for money. I've realized through my own experiences that quite a lot of students are often in that situation."

– Yara Clark, '22



English student Jabez Richard, here with his two daughters, was a beneficiary of the Student Emergency Fund.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE STUDENT
EMERGENCY FUND AT

www.vikingfunder.com/sef20



Bellingham Comes Together to Support Students of Color

Since the beginning of 2020, our world has seen a series of changes that have introduced unprecedented challenge along with new opportunity. Closer to home, we have seen Bellingham and the WWU communities come together to speak out against injustice and to support those who have been subjected to racism and violence.

Bellingham businesses have also stepped up to support students of color as they secure an education and a better future. Pure Bliss Desserts, Makeworth Market, Woods Coffee and Camber Coffee all stepped forward to help establish and support Black students through the newly created Western Stands for Racial Equity Fund and other scholarships.

These funds will support recruitment and retention scholarships in honor and in memory of those who have confronted injustice for generations. The scholarships are an investment in a new generation of young Americans who are poised to become leaders and agents of change in their communities.

"We knew we wanted to donate to support the Black community, and we knew we wanted to do something locally," said Dejah Kurovski, marketing coordinator for Camber Coffee. "I am bi-racial and was reminded of some of the scholarships I received while in college that were specifically for students of color. We wanted to do the same for the Black students in our community."

This academic year, donations to the Western Stands for Racial Equity fund will help Black students receive the financial support they need to pursue their degrees at Western.

"We know that all people are capable of amazing things," said Wes Herman, CEO of Woods Coffee. "We have a flag that hangs in all of our stores which reads: 'If you can dream it, you can do it.' In a society where people of color face significant challenges in achieving their dreams, we desire to bridge the gap and provide financial opportunities to help make their dreams an obtainable reality."

Frequented by students, Camber, Pure Bliss, Woods, and Makeworth are also demonstrating their commitment to having businesses that are inclusive, safe, and welcoming to people of color.

– Yara Clark, '22



Dejah Kurovski of Camber Coffee in Bellingham



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE WESTERN STANDS FOR
RACIAL EQUITY FUND AT
vikingfunder.com/RacialEquity

VIKINGS ON MARS

With a mere 35 million miles separating Western Washington University and Mars, why wouldn't the Red Planet be an obvious laboratory choice for WWU students and Associate Professor of Planetary Science Melissa Rice?

Rice, along with graduate and undergraduate students, comprise the Western Mars Lab, the planetary geology research group focused on using spacecraft observations and laboratory analyses to help untangle the history of water on Mars. The team works directly with two of NASA's Mars rover missions: Curiosity, which is exploring the surface of Mars right now, and Perseverance, which is scheduled to land on Mars Feb. 18, 2021.

As co-investigator, Rice is heavily involved in the development of the Mastcam-Z instrument, a pair of mast-mounted zoom cameras that will serve as the Perseverance rover's scientific "eyes." The Western Mars Lab has been part of the design, calibration, and testing to prepare for the Mastcam-Z's Mars assignment.

In January 2020, students traveled to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, to meet other scientists working on Perseverance and watch the craft being built. Jess Mollerup, '20, was part of the Western contingent.

"As a physics major I used reflectance spectroscopy to study rocks on Earth and Mars. One of my research



Alumni Katherine Winchell, '17, and Darian Dixon, '18, work for Malin Space Science Systems.

projects involved validating some of the data that Mastcam-Z collected during calibration," says Mollerup, now a WWU graduate student in geology. "This trip to Pasadena wasn't solely to see the rover, it was also an opportunity to meet and collaborate with other planetary scientists."

Mollerup was able to be immersed in their research during the summer between their junior and senior years thanks to the generosity of Ingrid

Sarapuu and Michael Anderson. The contribution provided funding for students across the College of Science and Engineering to spend the summer in Bellingham focused on scientific research.

"Education has been a family focus for us, as we recognize how important our own education was to each of us," Sarapuu says. "Michael and I didn't attend WWU, but both of our children did. It wasn't until our daughter spent

a summer doing research that we became aware of the importance of research to science students. Knowing that most college students spend summers at a job working to fund their education, we wanted to lend our support for a wider group of students to have the opportunity to have this summer research opportunity."

Many of Rice's students have secured careers in the space sciences following graduation, including Darian Dixon, '18, and Katherine Winchell, '17, who both work for Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego. MSSS designs and manufactures the Mastcam-Z.

"When the Perseverance rover lands in February 2021, I will be operating Mastcam-Z," says Winchell. "That is an experience and opportunity that would not have been possible without Melissa and my time and research work at Western."

Dixon was also the beneficiary of research funding.

"When I was Melissa's master's student, I was fortunate enough to have funding for research," Dixon says. "And I was able to just do my research. It enabled me to focus more on my work and then participate in activities (that were) outside my thesis but provided an important framework for my future career."

As Perseverance continues on its seven-month journey to Mars, Mollerup has the chance to reflect on what they have been able to accomplish and what might lie ahead.

"I have the opportunity to take part in some of the most incredible work in which humankind has ever engaged," Mollerup says. "I get to contribute to sending a rover through the vacuum of space to an entirely different planet in search of answers about the history and future of our solar system. I'm able to help answer an important question: Are we alone in the universe?"



SEE A VIDEO OF THE WESTERN MARS LAB'S TRIP TO JPL AT
www.edu/vikingsonmars



A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket carrying the Mars 2020 mission with the Perseverance rover lifts off from Space Launch Complex-41 at 7:50 a.m. EDT on July 30, 2020. Credit: United Launch Alliance.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2018-19

In fiscal year 2019, the university's overall financial position decreased by \$14.6 million, due largely to increased salaries, wages and employee benefit expense and repairs, and maintenance of various academic and residence halls. Also, during FY 2019, the university was required to record a \$6.9 million refund to the U.S. Department of Education as the Federal Perkins Program winds down due to Congress not renewing the Perkins Program after September 30, 2018. No new disbursements were permitted after June 30, 2018. The lack of renewal also means that as prior loans are repaid, the federal portion of the repayment must be returned to the federal government.

During FY 2019, construction continued on the Multicultural Center and the Housing Renovations Project. Construction work expenditures that were capitalized

on the Multicultural Center and Buchanan Towers Renovation during FY 2019 were \$14.4 million and \$11.3 million respectively. Also, during FY 2019, construction began on a new residence hall. The estimated \$67.6 million project will be a 400-bed student housing facility that provides a modern signature living community. Housing and Dining's new residence hall connects the north side of campus to the Ridgeway community with an accessible, safe pedestrian passage within the hall. This project was funded through a September 2019 bond issuance.

Student head count average annual enrollment figures for academic year 2018-2019 were 15,357 compared to 15,213 during the prior academic year. Total operating revenues increased \$9.1 million in FY 2019 due primarily to tuition and fee and state appropriations increases totaling

\$11.4 million, as well as \$2.7 million in increased sales and service of educational activities offset by an overall decrease in governmental grant revenue of \$5.4 million. The decrease in governmental grant revenue is primarily due to the \$6.9 million Perkins refund.

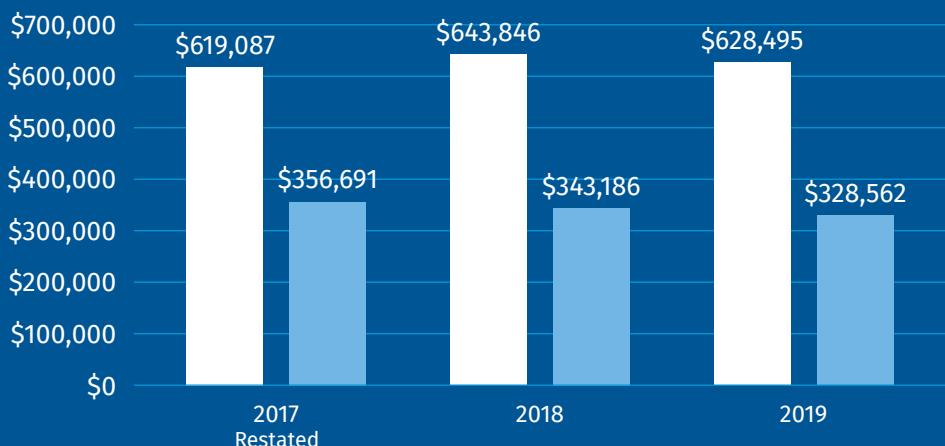


MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND RATING REPORTS CAN BE FOUND AT:

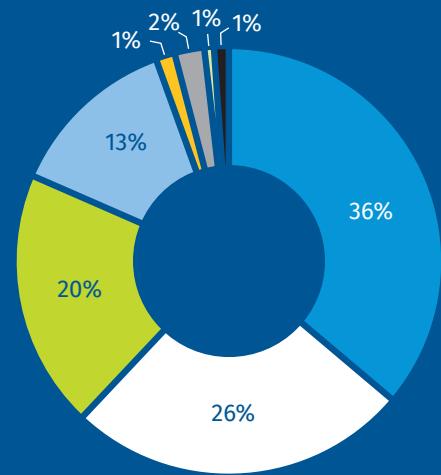
www.edu/financials



TOTAL ASSETS VS. NET POSITION (\$ in thousands)

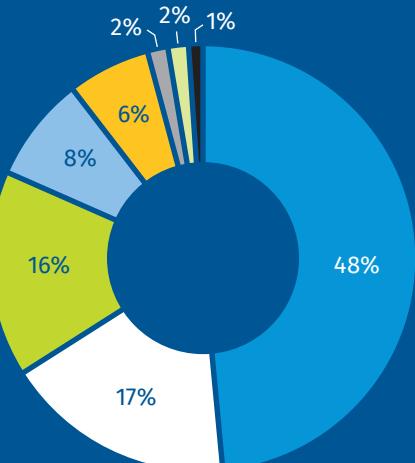


TOTAL REVENUES BY SOURCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 \$328,133 (in thousands)



Net tuition and fees	\$118,671
State appropriations - Operating	\$84,835
Net auxiliary enterprises	\$64,081
Grants and contracts	\$42,479
State appropriations - Capital	\$4,725
Sales & services of educational activities	\$7,331
Other capital revenue	\$2,358
Other	\$3,653

TOTAL EXPENSES BY NATURAL CLASSIFICATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 \$342,758 (in thousands)



Salaries	\$168,740
Supplies	\$63,522
Benefits	\$49,740
Depreciation	\$24,358
Scholarships	\$21,882
Utilities	\$5,116
Purchased & personal services	\$5,341
Interest and other	\$4,059



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To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the President's Office at (360) 650-3480.

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