

# WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Support the Success of all Students: \$5.8 million

Western has a proven track record in the retention and graduation of our students and is well-positioned to serve the first generation, low income and traditionally underserved students who are the state's future college graduates. With the demographics of Washington's K-12 students changing, it is more important now than ever to ensure that all students have access to high-quality, equitable support services in higher education.

## Investing in Student Success and Achievement (\$3.4 million)

- **Proactive Advising, Tutoring and Peer Mentoring:** Western will use data analytics to focus advising and support services to best serve students most at risk of not completing a degree. Demand for WWU's Tutoring Center services has nearly tripled in less than a decade and student demand for advising services has increased by 50 percent since 2012, but resources have not kept pace. Meanwhile, data analysis shows first-year students who visit WWU's Tutoring Center are more likely to continue toward graduation, especially for the least academically prepared students.
- **Targeted Support for Entry-Level Math Courses:** Students find entry-level math to be one of the most challenging roadblocks to completing a degree, and support for math courses accounts for more than half of WWU's Tutoring Center services. Funding will support a Math faculty liaison to coordinate tutoring services within Western's Tutoring Center and Math Department. Funding will also support tutor-led math study groups in residence halls to make services more accessible.
- **Mental Health Support:** One in 10 WWU students are in need of psychiatric care, and studies show that stress, anxiety and depression are major interferences with academic success. The number of clients at Western's Counseling Center is rising and mental health needs are becoming more severe. Additional staff is needed to provide more timely access to care, group counseling, workshops, coordinated case management services, and a violence-prevention specialist.
- **Support for Students with Disabilities:** Since 2009, WWU's disAbility Resources for Students office has seen a 90 percent growth in the number of students who qualify for services. Funding will support an additional counselor specializing in adaptive technologies and alternative text services to help keep up with growing student demand.
- **Destination Graduation – College Completion for Returning Adults:** A one-year grant from the College Spark Foundation in 2007 launched Destination Graduation, an initiative that invited students to re-enroll if they had left Western in good academic standing close to graduation. During the grant, 229 students re-enrolled and 181 graduated. With on-going state support, the successful program could be re-introduced with the potential for replication at all of the state's baccalaureate institutions.

## Enhancing Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (\$2.4 million)

Western also strives to create a welcoming and supportive academic environment for all students by improving multicultural services and creating more diverse educational experiences. Western requests funding to:

- Increase staff for the Multicultural and Ethnic Student Center
- Increase the number of student peer mentors for underrepresented students, following Western's successful Compass 2 Campus program
- Improve outreach and recruitment to diverse communities

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## LEARN MORE:

Becca Kenna-Schenk • Director of Government Relations  
becca.kenna-schenk@wwu.edu • (360) 951-3733

Joe Timmons • Assistant Director  
joe.timmons@wwu.edu • (206) 351-3756

