The number of Computer Science majors at Western has increased by 400 percent since 2010, with the number of Computer Science graduates nearly tripling and the overall number of STEM graduates increasing by nearly 60 percent. This investment will allow Western to produce an additional 100 STEM graduates each year who are career-ready in the State of Washington—strengthening the economy by helping to meet employer demand and preparing graduates for jobs of the future.

This proposal will alleviate capacity constraints in entry-level STEM courses, which are critical support courses for programs that are under the most significant demand, including Computer Science, Engineering and Pre-Health Sciences. Increasing capacity in foundational STEM courses will allow cohorts of students to move through academic sequences together, streamlining registration, enrollment and advising while improving student retention.

Washington has one of the highest concentrations of STEM industries: Approximately 80 percent of unfilled jobs in the state are in highly skilled STEM fields, according to the Washington Roundtable.