Dear Friends of the University of Washington,

Our federal funding and policy priorities for the coming year reflect our public mission and our commitment to the public good, which are inextricably linked to the University's historical partnership with the U.S. government. The federal government's longstanding pledge to invest in research empowers the UW to bridge the gap between curiosity and research-driven discovery and is critical to the health and economic competitiveness of our nation. From regenerative medicine to clean-energy technologies, new knowledge for a better world is the driving force behind what we do. Support from the federal establishment is critical to ensuring that our positive impact continues.

The University of Washington is a gathering place where leaders, thinkers and doers are addressing the challenges of today and tomorrow. UW faculty, staff and students pursue solutions to the many difficulties we face across our state and beyond. Our ability to do so is strengthened by the recruitment and support of the brightest researchers and educators from around the globe.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to educating and serving the public and preparing the future leaders of our great nation. UW students benefit not only from the rigorous and excellent education they receive, but also from the culture of inclusivity and accessibility. We know diversity and inclusion are essential components of excellence, and we strive for nothing less.

We see many opportunities in the year ahead as well as real and urgent challenges. I hope you will continue to look to the UW as a resource to address both local and global issues. We are proud of our longtime partnership with the federal government and look forward to working with you in 2020 to advance our shared priorities.

Sincerely,

Ana Mari Cauce
President
Professor of Psychology
Since 1861, the University of Washington has been at the forefront of producing knowledge, fostering business creation and growth, improving health care, tackling complex public policy challenges and preparing students to be responsible and engaged citizens. This work is pursued by all our schools and colleges across the University, each making unique contributions to our communities. The totality of the UW’s contributions directly arising from federal investment is greater than the sum of the discoveries by individual colleges and schools.

By leveraging federal, state and private dollars, the UW is developing the next generation of leaders, thinkers and doers to address the nation’s most complex challenges and to accelerate innovation around specific initiatives, including the Population Health and Race & Equity initiatives.

At the UW, we truly view our federal support as long-term investments in the development of ideas designed to pay significant dividends on both a national and a global scale. These dividends include a well-educated workforce and innovative solutions to the grand challenges of our time. And always, we strive to be positive and responsible stewards of federal resources.

Our nation’s future will be shaped by communities that choose to invest in two critical resources: innovation and a well-prepared workforce. America’s leading research universities, like the University of Washington, are fundamental to innovation and the development of critical human capital. America’s most dynamic industries and organizations recognize this causal relationship — companies continue to choose locations with a thriving innovation ecosystem fueled by a well-educated and prepared workforce.

The UW’s research and innovation have driven both the Washington state and U.S. economies for decades. The return on this investment is long-term and sustained. Our federal priorities for 2020 reflect a combination of our past accomplishments and a promise to continue to push the boundaries of excellence to serve our students, our state and our nation.

In FY2019

$1.2B federal research funding
$1.6B total research dollars
5,494 grant awards

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We thank Congress for its recent robust support of federal research funding and urge continued critical investments in basic and applied science in a broad spectrum of fields across all federal research-supporting agencies and directorates; we were proud to be awarded $1.224 billion in FY2019. The UW continues to view support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as our top federal funding priority, and our second priority as the National Science Foundation. Every college and school across the UW has a grant funded by either NIH or NSF, if not both. The UW received more than $629 million in FY2019 from NIH, making it our largest single federal funding source, and $133 million from NSF. Overall, the UW received more than $800 million from the Department of Health and Human Services in FY2019, which includes funding from NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration and others.

Maintaining federal investment in research is not simply about singular monetary investments. Research programs need time, sustained resources and infrastructure investments to mature and succeed. Inconsistent direction of federal agencies or funding instability — whether from continuing resolutions, one-time increases or proposed cuts — undermines the decades of our nation’s investment in innovation. Instability sets researchers, research institutions, agencies, innovation and our nation up for failure.

In addition to federal support for scientific research, federal investments in financial aid and programs that provide resources for student success are fundamental to our long-term national security, economic growth and prosperity. We urge Congress to continue to invest in the development of students at all levels, because they represent the foundation of our future workforce and economy.

Scientific progress and societal advancement are not possible without fostering student development and talent. We strive to ensure that the UW is an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community to all its members regardless of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, economic status or length of time at the university. Assault, harassment and discrimination have no place on our campuses or in our nation. We urge Congress to improve our international engagement abilities by reducing visa processing times for students and visiting scholars; enact permanent, positive solutions for Dreamers and DACA recipients; affirm the Optional Practical Training program; and strengthen protections for our scholars abroad.

We take seriously the success of the research enterprise as an economic driver and national security apparatus. Foreign and domestic bad actors who strive to abuse or circumvent the grant and intellectual property system cannot be tolerated. The UW is working with the federal government and colleagues across higher education to be proactive in reinforcing or establishing protections and processes to educate faculty, students and staff on potential risks, promoting best practices for compliance with current federal and state disclosure requirements and protecting our mutual intellectual property and future economic opportunity. We urge Congress to instruct federal agencies focused on research and security to better collaborate, share information and develop best practices to recognize threats and protect federal and university investments in intellectual property.

The UW is home to more than
286 specialized research centers

100,520 jobs created or sustained by the UW (FY2018)

UW research sustains
12,203 jobs
Population Health

While today’s global challenges are monumental and those of the future unpredictable, the UW remains committed to defying the odds and conventional thinking to solve the problems of today and tomorrow through our 25-year Population Health Initiative. The initiative’s efforts are directed toward diverse yet interconnected challenges. UW researchers are analyzing challenges around community resilience to extreme nature events caused by climate change; addressing systemic food and water insecurities; reducing the rate, burden and racial disproportionality of disease; and improving health in our rapidly changing world.

Race & Equity

At the UW, we are unwavering in our resolve to create an inclusive, equitable and welcoming community for all. Diversity, in all its forms, is critical to advance our understanding of the world and to discover solutions that better serve society. The renowned excellence of American higher education is not possible without a healthy and welcoming environment for all students and scholars. We believe in leading by example, and the UW is putting great effort into changing our culture by recognizing overt and micro aggressions and fostering a safe environment to report and address inappropriate or offensive behavior. Access to and sharing of ideas is fundamental to the fabric of progress and innovation.

More specifically, the UW asks Congress to:

- Maintain robust funding for NIH and NSF as well as other federal scientific research agencies and directorates.
- Maintain a welcoming environment for all students, scholars and visitors through our immigration policies, including finding a permanent, positive fix for our DACA-eligible students and staff, a robust H-1B visa program, a meaningful Optional Practical Training visa program and timely visa processing for visiting scholars of all nations.
- Invest in students directly by funding programs like Pell Grant awards, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants and Federal Work-Study, which make higher education a more viable possibility for financially disadvantaged students.
- Continue to invest in undergraduate and graduate research and support programs that engage all students, especially those from traditionally underrepresented populations, in meaningful basic and applied research.
- Support increased access and talent development through robust funding for TRIO and GEAR UP programs, as well as programs funded by NSF and NIH designed to increase pathways for students who have historically been underrepresented in STEM degree programs.
- Reinvest in and strengthen Title VI and Fulbright-Hays, as they are the federal government’s most comprehensive international education programs. Graduates of these programs are essential to our diplomatic, defense, commercial and educational interests as well as many other areas of society.
- Facilitate ongoing communication and active engagement between academic and federal stakeholders to protect our national scientific and research integrity while maintaining the free flow of ideas.
UW Fast Facts

**UW’s total economic impact** (FY2018)
$15.7B across all campuses
($43M of economic activity each day)

- **73%** of UW undergrads are Washington residents
- **42%** of UW students declaring STEM majors are women
- **60%** of UW undergrads graduate with no known debt
- **32%** of UW undergrads are eligible for the Husky Promise, which guarantees tuition and fees are covered for WA residents in need

In 2019, the UW School of Nursing awarded more than **500** degrees

- **88.5%** of UW Bothell alums
- **86.7%** of UW Tacoma alums

Living and working in Washington state:

- **73%** of UW undergrads are Washington residents
- **42%** of UW students declaring STEM majors are women
- **32%** of UW undergrads are eligible for the Husky Promise, which guarantees tuition and fees are covered for WA residents in need

- More than **32%** of incoming UW freshmen from the U.S. will be the first in their families to attain a bachelor’s degree.
- **41%** of UW Bothell students and **60%** of UW Tacoma students are first generation.

UW College of Education students spend **400,000** cumulative hours per year completing service at schools across Washington.

UW is in our **10th cohort** of the Department of Education’s College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

#1 **most innovative public university in the world** (2019) (REUTERS)

#1 **public university in the U.S. that pays off the most** (CNBC)