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 Subject: Supplying Washington’s Skilled Workforce

The UW produces a plurality of degrees awarded in Washington State

In the economy of the future, the college degree plays an increasing role in the ability of Americans to secure employment. The US Bureau of Labor Statistics’ employment projections for the 2006-2016 period established that half of the 30 fastest growing jobs over the period will require at least a bachelor’s degree¹.

Each year, the University of Washington awards over 12,000 bachelor’s, master’s, professional and doctoral degrees, 30 percent of all degrees awarded by the state’s six public four-year institutions. During the current decade, the UW has granted over 117,000 degrees in the following categories:

UW Degrees Awarded, 2000-2009			
Bachelor’s Degrees	Master’s Degrees	Doctoral Degrees	Professional Degrees
79,759	27,024	5,512	4,860

UW graduates comprise a substantial portion of Washington’s skilled workforce

A National Science Foundation (NSF) study estimated that 67 percent of college graduates work in the business/industry sector, followed by 22 percent in education, and 11 percent in government. Extrapolating from these data, UW graduates fill a wide array of occupations in Washington State. Approximately 76 percent of UW degree recipients continue to reside in Washington State, comprising a significant part of the skilled workforce. Additionally, 73 percent of UW law, medicine, nursing, dental, and pharmacy graduates practice in Washington. This means that approximately 89,000 UW degree recipients from the *current decade* alone fill a wide array of jobs in Washington today, including:

- **Nearly 60,000 UW alumni with degrees granted over 2000–2009 working in business and industry** including the fields of computer engineering, information technology, engineering, data management accounting, financial services, human resources, media, design, research, architecture, consulting and more. Approximately 24,000 graduates are self-employed and employing others to build businesses in the state.
- **Another 19,500 UW alumni with degrees granted over 2000-2009 working in education** including occupations such as teacher, librarian, professor, advisor, researcher, coach, analyst, office assistant, and program manager.
- **Plus 9,500 UW alumni with degrees granted over 2000-2009 working in government and non-profit organizations** in occupations such as social worker, psychologist, scientist, technician, safety officer, case manager, engineer, transportation planner, analyst, ecologist, natural resources specialist, development manager, nurse, legislative assistant, and counselor.

¹ See Table 6: The 30 fastest-growing occupations, 2006-2016, located at: <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t06.htm>

UW Educational Outreach contributes thousands of additional graduates each year

UW certificate programs produce additional graduates each year, including over 3,000 certificates awarded in 2009. The most popular UW certificate programs for 2009 are listed in the chart that follows.

Most Popular 2009 Certificate Programs
Project Management
Editing
Accounting
Nonprofit Management
Construction Management

The University of Washington performs cutting edge research and invaluable public service, greatly benefiting the state and its citizens. However, it is through teaching that the University makes one of its biggest impacts, producing highly educated and skilled graduates who live and work in Washington. The UW looks forward to continuing and expanding its contribution to the quality and growth of Washington’s skilled workforce.

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