



Planning and Budgeting Brief

Date Prepared: January 9, 2009
Subject: Strong University, Strong Economy: How State Investments in the University of Washington Make a Difference

The University of Washington receives critical financial support from the State of Washington to not only continue core educational and research efforts, but to improve such efforts with new initiatives aimed at increasing productivity and quality at all levels of the University. Below are some examples of how recent investments of new state funds have been put to work at the University of Washington.

Teaching More Students and Improving Quality

The bulk of state funding for the University is used directly to instruct a growing number of students at the highest quality level. While there were some lean years in the early part of this decade, the state has continued to deliver critical support that the University needs to ensure an affordable, high quality college education for a broad spectrum of Washingtonians. Recent state investments have contributed to the following results at the UW:

- ❖ **Affordable Tuition.** State commitment to public college education has enabled the University of Washington to maintain the lowest tuition among the University's Global Challenge State peers. Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranks the UW in the top 10 nationally as a bargain for academic excellence in higher education. Affordable tuition means that qualified students from all economic backgrounds can afford a great, in-state research university education. The pay-off for the state is high; with every one percent increase in college-educated workers, the state economy grows by \$1.4 billion.
- ❖ **Enrollment Growth.** The UW is the largest provider of education to undergraduate and graduate students in Washington State, educating more than 47,000 people annually. Over the last two biennia, the state has provided over \$58 million to fund expanded enrollment at the University, particularly in the fields of math and science. State investments in UW enrollment growth from 1999-2009 are shown in the table below. Enrollment increased 2% in 1999-00 and 2000-01, 4% in 2001-02, and then remained fairly constant until it increased 2% in 2006-07 and 3% in 2007-08.

YEAR	APPROP \$(m)
1999-01	\$23.8
2001-03	\$0
2003-05	\$0
2005-07	\$17.4
2006 Supp	\$2.5
2007-09	\$38.2

- ❖ **Increased Efficiency.** The time-to-degree has been decreasing as the number of courses offered, academic advisors, and faculty members have increased. From 2003 to 2008, the average number of years it took for an undergraduate student to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree declined as follows:
 - UW Seattle, Non-Transfer: 4.6 to 4.4 years
 - UW Seattle, Transfer: 3.4 to 3.1 years
 - UW Bothell, Transfer: 2.7 to 2.3 years
 - UW Tacoma, Transfer: 2.5 to 2.4 years



Planning and Budgeting Brief

- ❖ **Increased Quality.** The number of students graduating with extensive research experience has grown by 679 between 2003 (11 percent of undergraduates) and 2007 (13 percent), and the number of undergraduate students graduating with extensive service experience has grown by over one thousand between 2003 (12 percent of undergraduates) and 2007 (15 percent). Additionally, the UW currently has 113 alumni serving in the Peace Corps, more than any other institution for two years in a row. Since its inception in 1961, 2,450 UW alumni have served in the Peace Corps.

Recruiting and Retaining High Quality Faculty and Staff

When state funds are short, the legislature has sometimes used recruitment and retention funding as an attempt to maintain the quality of higher education by enabling the continual hiring and retention of excellent faculty. The state awarded the UW \$4.6 million in recruitment and retention funds in the 1999-01 biennial budget, \$2.8 million in the 2002 Supplemental budgets, and \$4.6 million in the 2003-05 biennial budget.

Following are some of the exemplary faculty members that the UW has been able to retain using these state funds:

- ❖ **David Montgomery:** Professor of Earth and Space Sciences, named one of 25 2008 MacArthur Foundation fellows in September.
- ❖ **Sandor Kovacs:** Professor of Mathematics, works on higher dimensional birational geometry.
- ❖ **Nancy Meizels:** Professor of Immunology and Biochemistry and Director of Molecular Medicine Program, has defined new mechanisms of genomic instability leading to cancer, and generated new approaches to vector-free gene therapy.
- ❖ **Don Brownlee:** Professor of Astronomy, works on cosmic dust, comets, astrobiology and STARDUST (NASA Discovery mission to collect samples from a comet and bring them back to Earth).
- ❖ **Cecelia Giachelli:** Professor of Bioengineering and Pathology, studies tissue engineering, biointerfacial control of cell behavior, foreign body response, and ectopic calcification in biomaterials and disease bioengineered cell therapy.

Recruiting Researchers with STAR funds

The state provided the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development with \$2.6 million in funding over the past two years to reach a ten year goal of recruiting ten entrepreneurial researchers to lead innovation research teams in the state of Washington. In the past year, the UW was able to leverage these funds to recruit Michael Hochberg in nanotechnology by helping to fund the purchase of a \$2.5 million electron beam lithography machine that will assist Hochberg's research and that of at least 30 other faculty members at the University.

Global Health Teaching & Research

State funding totaling \$6.8 million (\$500,000 in the 2006 Supplemental budget and \$6.3 million in the 2007-09 biennial budget) facilitated the creation of the interdisciplinary Department of Global Health. This support from the state of Washington was leveraged to secure a core grant of \$105 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to form a new Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). These funds enabled the recruitment of a core of talented researchers, including Institute Director Christopher JL Murray from Harvard University. With the creation of this new department and Institute, The State of Washington and the University of Washington are working to help build the necessary knowledge base to understand more about beneficial health interventions, risk factors that lead to negative



Planning and Budgeting Brief

health outcomes, and how to better allocate resources for health in an increasingly tumultuous financial environment to have the most beneficial outcomes possible.

Life Sciences Research

In the 2006 Supplemental budget, the state provided \$2.4 million of life sciences research funding. This money has been used to support the operations and maintenance costs at South Lake Union (SLU), which houses many new and continuing research efforts. Funding for SLU has been an integral component of research growth at UW Medicine, which has outpaced its peer institutions over the past five years and generated an estimated \$1.3 billion of business activity in Washington State in 2007. When fully built-out, we project that SLU will add nearly \$125 million per year in total research funding to the existing UW Medicine research portfolio. This represents the potential for \$285 million of additional annual business activity and nearly 1,900 additional jobs in the State of Washington.

eScience

An initial state appropriation of \$1 million helped the UW secure the position of the Implementing Organization for the Ocean Observatory Initiative (locally known as NEPTUNE), a \$135 million National Science Foundation facility that will transform oceanography from a data-poor expeditionary science to a data-rich observatory science. As the eScience Institute expands, it will enhance competitiveness and transform the process of discovery across the University.

Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS)

The state provided a total of \$700,000 (\$250,000 in the 2005-07 biennial budget, \$300,000 in 2007-09, and \$150,000 in the 2008 supplemental budget) for the Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences (I-LABS). These funds are being used for faculty, staff, and student salaries as well as operating costs for the enterprise, which supports two primary purposes:

- ❖ *Discovery*: making transformational discoveries on early learning and the brain that help the citizens of Washington State and beyond.
- ❖ *Dissemination*: reaching out and disseminating information to stakeholders in early learning, including policymakers, educators, parents, health-care professionals, business leaders, and philanthropists.

UW Tacoma Autism Center

In the 2004 supplemental budget and the 2005-07 biennial budget the state provided almost \$1.4 million to support the Tacoma Autism Center. In the past year, the Center has provided general information about autism to approximately 8,000 individuals, professional training and consultation to 13 school districts, and hired a Parent Resource Coordinator to directly assist families with referrals and education. Treatment costs for a child with autism can be as much \$30,000 per year, and early intervention, which the UW autism center is at the forefront for developing and implementing, has substantial promise to improve prognosis and reduce related costs.

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