

2023-25 Operating Budget Priorities

1. Increase the number of bilingual and high need teacher graduates. (\$3 million)

Due to the statewide teacher shortage affecting K-12 schools, CWU is proposing three strategies to increase the output of diverse, certified teachers in high need areas.

STRATEGY #1: Expand bilingual education and grow-your-own programs at locations of high diversity and STEM pathways. CWU currently operates six University Centers co-located on community college campuses. Two of the most diverse centers are located at Highline College in Des Moines and Yakima Valley College. CWU proposes to offer a bilingual elementary education program at these two locations. Another shortage area felt statewide is teachers who specialize in STEM fields. CWU proposes to add a STEM pathway to its existing high school teacher academies.

STRATEGY #2: Launch grow-your-own residency programs in high need areas of Elementary, Bilingual, Special Education, and English Language Learners. This will expand access to teacher certification for paraeducators and people who are place-bound within their communities. These alternative route and apprenticeship programs will be for individuals seeking to become teachers of various educational backgrounds.

STRATEGY #3: Strategically disperse student teachers to high need and poverty impacted schools. Research indicates that one of the most promising but underutilized policy levers for addressing teacher shortages is targeted student teaching placements. Currently, students largely decide based on housing costs. This strategy would create conditional scholarships and housing stipends to incentivize student teachers to pick schools that need them the most.

2. Improve student success of both CWU students and students in surrounding area. (\$2 million)

Due to the lasting impact of the pandemic, CWU is proposing to enhance its Learning Commons, which supports students' academic needs. CWU wants to expand services to its own students, who may need additional academic support services to be successful in college. This proposal focuses on improving support services for its students. CWU is proposing to develop and enhance three student support programs:

- Increase the number of **Peer Assisted Learning sessions (PALs)** into more historically difficult courses, to offer tutoring sessions for courses led by students.
- Provide **Academic Success Coaches** who would provide students success coaching support beyond the classroom, by engaging in career ready training.
- Add a **Discipline Specific Tutoring** program to offer subject tutoring for students majoring in high demand degrees such as psychology, business administration, accounting, and biological sciences etc.

Beginning in the 2021-22 academic year, the School Psychology Program at CWU initiated the Reading Intervention Center (RIC) to provide reading intervention services to children in kindergarten through grade 4 (K-4). The RIC has been staffed by graduate students and supervised by faculty. The impact of the pandemic has long-term consequences on the academic and social emotional learning of CWU students and children living in the surrounding communities. CWU is proposing to develop and enhance a reading intervention program, developed, and managed by the Psychology Program:

- **Increase the hours** of the RIC to provide more reading services to children in the community, while providing the same 1:1 intervention service.
- **Extend the grade level** of reading intervention services, to serve more students and increase the number being served per hour.



3. Provide financial literacy curriculum and increase FAFSA/WASFA completion (\$2.1 million)

CWU proposes to expand financial literacy statewide in K-12 schools and at the university, which includes efforts to increase FAFSA/WASFA completion rates. Washington currently ranks 48th when it comes to students completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which are necessary for students to receive aid. Because of this, Washingtonians are missing out on over \$60 million they are eligible for. CWU proposes to add on to the State Board of Community & Technical Colleges initiative and hire outreach specialists to work in K-12 schools to help boost aid application completion rates.

CWU also proposes to bring its personal finance curriculum to high schools around the state via College in the High School. The course is currently in eight high schools and can be rapidly expanded statewide. Students who complete the course not only learn valuable skills, but they also earn credit towards both high school graduation and a college degree.

Finally, CWU proposes to increase the financial literacy of current CWU students through peer mentoring with students in the College of Business. This strategy aims to help financially illiterate students with advice on paying for college, debt, and everyday decisions like buying a car or getting insurance.

