

# Central Washington University Looks to Further Student Success

*Since the pandemic CWU's Learning Commons has seen an influx in requested tutoring services that we do not offer, and our current services are at capacity due to unprecedented demand. This decision package responds to those requested supports, with discipline-specific tutoring, academic success coaching, and additional peer-assisted learning sessions. In addition, the pandemic also had a severe impact on learning loss of K-12 students, and CWU's School of Psychology developed a reading intervention service to respond to these needs. As we respond to the unprecedented number of needs on campus, it is critical that we continue to support elementary school students in the community by providing reading services and further expanding this program to middle school students.*



## (1) Expand Peer Assisted Learning Sessions to Difficult Courses - \$336K

CWU's Peer Assisted Learning Sessions (PALs) Program saw an increase in students requesting to join the tutoring groups since the pandemic. PALs Tutoring Groups are learning communities led by students, focused on a specific course where students practice positive study habits, learn new study skills/strategies, get to know their classmates, and strengthen their understanding of class content.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, PALs saw a higher success rate for PALs participants than non-participants across all subjects and all three quarters. This proposal is to expand PALs into historically difficult courses, such as Political Science; Nutrition; Chinese; Biology; Geology; Anthropology; Information Technology; Geography; Computer Science; and History. **The goal is to meet pandemic-induced need by expanding the number of sessions offered to students.**

## (2) Develop Academic Success Coaching to Foster Workforce Demanded Skills - \$569K

With the increasing challenges of retention and increasing numbers of students admitted with risk factors since the pandemic, CWU's goal is to invest in providing intensive, comprehensive academic support for incoming students. Since the pandemic, developing foundational learning principles are more important than ever; students often lacked important interventions that would enable their academic growth.

For the first time, many were not taught concepts like time management, note taking, and study skills. **Time management and note taking are critical life skills that students take with them into the workforce upon graduation.**

Success Coaches will encourage students to:

- Reflect and consider the "causes" they attribute to their performance
- Assess how their performance correlates with their goals
- Set goals for changing behavior and outcomes
- Locate resources and ask for help.



### (3) Develop Discipline Specific Tutoring in High Demand Subjects - \$500K

Though the Learning Commons provides consistent 1:1 tutoring in Math and Writing, we have seen a significant rise in requests for individual subject tutoring outside of these subject areas. In the 2021-22 academic year, there were 819 requests for subject tutoring along with 709 sessions fulfilled by our partnership with the eTutoring consortium. **In total, the need for discipline-specific tutoring outside of the current in-person offerings points to the need for a supported program with dedicated resources and staff.**

A discipline specific tutoring program would offer both in-person and online assistance. This new program would support students in CWU high-demand subjects, while also targeting highly sought after programs that contribute to Washington state's employment pool in these disciplines.

The proposed subject support disciplines are:

- Psychology
- Business Administration
- Accounting
- Biological Sciences/Biology General
- Computer and Information Sciences/Computer Science
- Law and Justice
- Social Sciences.

### (4) Expand the Offerings of the Reading Intervention Center - \$612K

With the COVID-19 pandemic, there is great concern for the academic and social development of children who experienced disruptions of shut-downs and online schooling. Findings point to significant disruptions in academic development, particularly for children in the early grades from 2020 to 2022.

Beginning in Spring of 2021, the graduate program in School Psychology at CWU initiated the Reading Intervention Center (RIC) to provide reading intervention services to children in kindergarten through grade 4 (K-4) at no cost. The RIC has been staffed by graduate students in the CWU School Psychology program and supervised by faculty. Due to limited staffing and funding, services are limited to Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons. The School Psychology program will use funding to continue to provide services to K-4 students and expand those services up to the middle school level. In addition, the Center will expand the number of tutoring hours per week to 1-8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 1-5 p.m., on Fridays. **Many families are planning to have their children continue to participate in the program, and additional students will join due to the impact on learning from hybrid and remote schooling during the pandemic.**

**Central Washington University requests \$2 million in this Student Success package to build off the funding from the 2022 Supplemental session, while developing student success programs in the Learning Commons and furthering the Reading Intervention Center in the School Psychology program.**



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