Tuition Waiver Request for Washington State Math Competition - High School Winners

**Background:**
Washington State Math Competition High School Contest has been in existence for nearly 40 years. It has evolved into an event where problems are contextually rich and challenge student to apply mathematics to real life circumstances. Coaches have commented that this contest is like none other in that the focus is on application while most other math competitions focus on the mathematics alone. As a consequence, this contest inspires a special ability of math student. Students first compete in regional contests that are held in ten different regions around the state (see wsmc.net). Over 60 public and private schools participate, some with just a handful of students and some with over 30 students. Total statewide student participation exceeds 600 students at the regional level. From that, roughly the top 15% in each event end up being invited to the State competition. Typically more than 50 high schools are represented bringing more than 250 students to the state competition.

Thirty years ago state was always held at CWU. Unfortunately it lost its support for several years. With the renewed support of the CWU Mathematics Department, however, we are happy to announce that once again the state competition will be back at the CWU campus this April 18th.

**Goals**
Typically, the best students from each high school compete here. We would like to attract as many of these students to CWU as possible.

**Proposed waivers:**
We are proposing a total of 19 $1000 tuition waivers for the winners of the various competitions.

**Up to 6 $1000 waivers for the 1st place winners of the Team Project competition**
Up to 6 person teams are given several months to write a compelling report answering an open-ended problem. Reports are scored on both mathematics and exposition.
Up to 6 $1000 waivers for the 1st place winners (Divisions I and II) of the Team Problem competition
While on campus for the competition, teams are given a few hours to solve and write up a more complicated math problem. Reports are scored on their reasoning, algebraic sense and clarity of communication.

Up to 6 $1000 waivers for the 1st place winners (Divisions I and II) of the Topical Team competition
While on campus, students will take this more traditional mathematics test. Team members’ scores are totaled. Teams are divided into two divisions depending on the size of the school.

1 $1000 waiver for the 1st place winner of the Knowdown competition
Lastly, in this spelling bee style competition, students are asked more straight-forward mathematics questions in front of an audience. The last student standing is the winner.

Likely Impact
A good percentage of the winners will be seniors who, likely, have already decided where they will attend college next year. There will, however, be a large number of underclassmen on campus competing as well. Having CWU sponsorship behind this prestigious competition will only serve to raise their awareness of CWU and what we have to offer.