



# HIGHER EDUCATION

## Higher education

Increase higher education access and affordability for students and families: \$205.8 million

### Tuition freeze

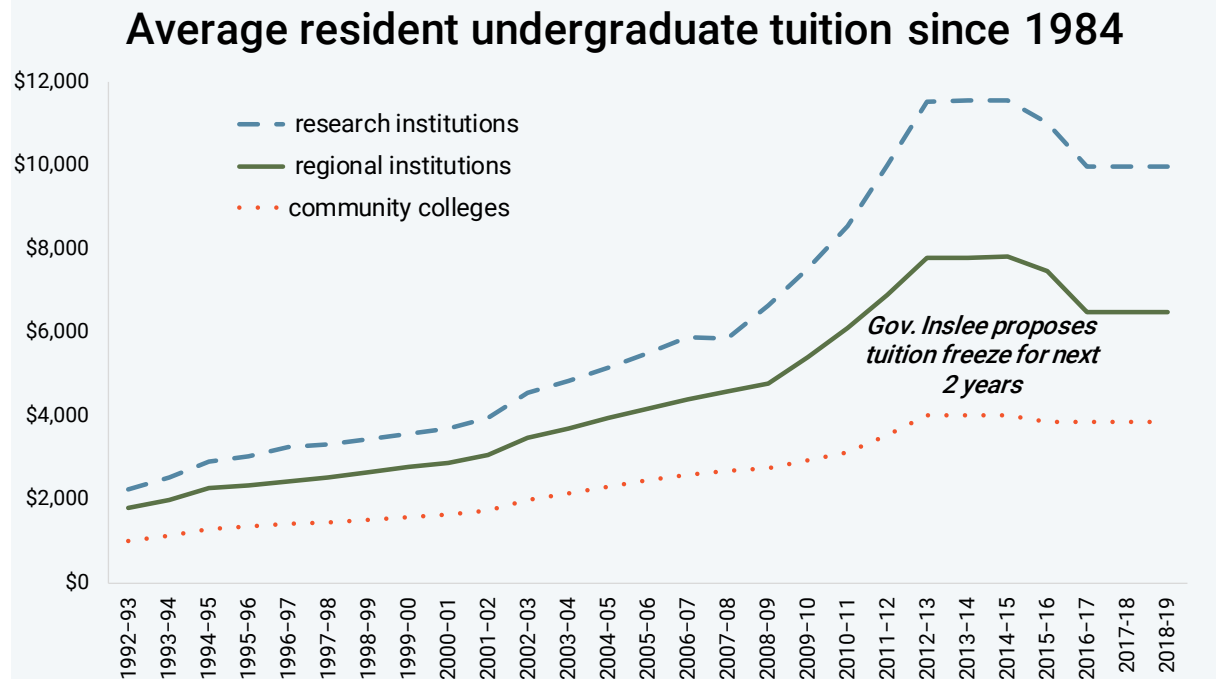
Freeze resident undergraduate tuition for both years of the biennium for public baccalaureate colleges and the community and technical colleges. The budget offsets a 2.2 percent and 2.0 percent resident undergraduate operating fee increase in each year, respectively, of the biennium. Future operating fee increases are assumed to be capped by the average annual percentage growth in the Washington median hourly wage for the previous 14 years. (\$56.4 million General Fund-State)

### State Need Grant backfill and increase

Backfill the State Need Grant, a need-based financial aid program, for 2,100 students. The 2016 supplemental budget provided \$18.0 million for approximately 2,100 students on a one-time basis. Without additional funding, service levels for the State Need Grant would drop from 70,000 students now served to 67,900 in fiscal year 2018. The budget backfills to maintain service levels for these students and increases funding due to a projected increase in College Bound students who are eligible for a State Need Grant. (\$30.1 million GF-S)

### State Need Grant expansion

Expand the State Need Grant for 14,000 eligible students each year, increasing the total number



After rising sharply from 2008 to 2012, tuition has been reduced by 14 percent at Washington's research institutions, 17 percent at our regional institutions and 4 percent at our community colleges. Gov. Inslee proposes freezing tuition in the next biennium.

of grant recipients from 70,000 students to 84,000 annually. In 2017, an estimated 24,000 students were eligible for the State Need Grant, but unable to receive it due to lack of funding. This investment decreases the number of unserved, eligible students by 60 percent, from 24,000 to 9,000 students annually. The State Need Grant increases college affordability and

improves college completion rates for low-income, nontraditional and returning college students. (\$116.3 million GF-S)

### Opportunity Scholarship to professional and technical students

Expand the Opportunity Scholarship to students enrolled in professional-technical certificate or

## HIGHER EDUCATION

degree programs, including pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, two-year degrees and certificates. State funds will leverage a 50 percent private match. This program is a partnership that provides scholarships to low- and middle-income students who have received their high school diploma or GED certificate in Washington and are pursuing a degree or certificate in approved fields, such as STEM or health care. To date, the state has provided \$71.5 million to match private contributions. (\$3.0 million GF-S)

### **Improve student success, retention and graduation rates: \$20.0 million**

#### **Student success initiatives**

Target funding to campus initiatives related to academic advising, tutoring and other education supports at Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College and Western Washington University. (\$10.0 million GF-S)

#### **Guided Pathways**

Hire 66 full-time equivalent staff to assist community and technical colleges with curriculum redesign, focused student advising and student supports using the Guided Pathways model. This evidence-based program improves student advising and boosts student completion rates. Each college will be able to hire one to four academic advisers to begin implementing Guided Pathways. (\$8.5 million GF-S)

#### **MESA**

Expand the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement program by 750 slots at six

new sites. MESA provides advising, academic excellence workshops and other supports to students in traditionally underrepresented STEM fields. It has demonstrated better student outcomes and STEM degree attainment. New sites will be determined by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. (\$1.5 million GF-S)

#### **Other**

##### **University of Washington medical school expansion**

Continue support for 20 medical students in their third and fourth year of school and add 10 students for the first year of medical school in fall 2017 at the UW's Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, medical education program — dubbed WWAMI — in Spokane and Eastern Washington, in partnership with Gonzaga University. The 2015–17 budget provided support for 40 students and one-time funding for 20 students. With the addition of a 10-student cohort, the total cohort is increased to 70. (\$10.0 million GF-S)

##### **Washington State University medical school support**

Enroll first class of medical students at WSU. Funding supports 60 students at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine starting fall 2017. (\$10.0 million GF-S)

##### **Special Olympics**

Support the 2018 Special Olympics USA games. The UW will host 3,500 athletes at the games in July 2018. (\$2.0 million GF-S)

##### **Labor and workforce research**

Expand South Seattle College's Washington State Labor Education and Research Center by three FTE staff. The center provides workforce education, conducts trainings, produces the Washington State Workplace Rights manual and teaches continuing education classes. New staff will extend its research capacity, increase classes and worker trainings, and develop an online associate degree in workforce and labor studies. (\$778,000 GF-S)

##### **Advance the study of human rights**

Expand efforts at the UW's Washington Center for Human Rights. The center coordinates with the schools of law, business, economics, public policy and international studies to advance work on global issues of international trade, immigration, labor and trade agreements to improve Washington's engagement in the international economy. (\$250,000 GF-S)

##### **Honeybee research**

Support honeybee and pollinator research at WSU. Declines in honeybees and other insect pollinators threaten the global food supply. (\$75,000 GF-S)