



## Monthly Newsletter, December 12th

### Student Service Shout-Out

#### Emergency Housing:

Did you know the Basic Needs Hub has emergency housing for students experiencing homelessness, unsafe living conditions, or facing eviction? Western offers 2-3 weeks of on-campus housing at no cost to students. Students can typically move in day-of, Monday through Friday. You can find more information on this service, or other housing resources available to Western students here. For more information about Emergency housing or the Basic Needs Hub, please reach out to the Basic Needs Hub Resource Navigator, Gina Ebling.

### Addressing Student Concerns

#### Student Health Center Switches to Insurance Billing Models

Beginning in Winter Quarter 2026 the WWU Student Health Center will be switching to an insurance billing model. That means that students' insurance will now be billed for any services such as office visits or procedures. The intention behind this switch is to be able to offer more specialty care and avoid raising the Health Services Fee. With this change likely comes concerns about access to healthcare for students who are either uninsured or underinsured. The SHC will be implementing a program called the Bridge Plan for students who are underinsured or have high deductibles. There will also be a Financial Hardship application which will be limited to students with certain financial aid criteria after all other payment and insurance options have been exhausted. For any questions about this switch please check out the SHC's [Billing FAQ](#), or reach out to the SHC at [student.healthcenter@wwu.edu](mailto:student.healthcenter@wwu.edu).



## WTA Proposed Fare Increases & Status of WWU/WTA Contract:

ASWWU Government was informed on Friday 11/21 that WTA is proposing a Fare increase, and that they would no longer be coming to the table to negotiate a contract with WWU for student and staff bus passes. The fare increase would raise the fixed-route fare from \$1 to \$2 a ride and would raise the daily &



monthly cap from 3\$ & 30\$ to 6\$ & 60\$. This increase would also raise the cost of paratransit from 1\$ per ride to 3\$. If both changes were to take place, WWU students who ride the bus consistently would have to pay up to 400 times more to use that service. ASWWU Government has been working tirelessly to prevent this change from passing by meeting with local officials, WWU admin, and raising awareness with students and staff. On December 1st, both the Associated Students Executive Board and Student Senate unanimously approved the ASWWU Resolution Opposing the WTA Fare Increase and to Urge Whatcom Transit Authority to Continue their Contract with Western. You can find an read this resolution [here](#). Attention and pressure from students is working, according to a recent email from our Western VP of Business and Financial Affairs, Joyce Lopes: "WTA and WWU have agreed to enter good-faith negotiations towards a new contract agreement that will extend beyond September 2026."

ASWWU, Civic Action Programs, and WWU Free and Fast Transit Coalition, rallied students to attend both the virtual and in-person public hearings for the fare increase. Over 50 students showed up to the initial virtual hearing and over 150 people showed up in person to voice their concerns. We are so proud of our WWU community for showing up and advocating to keep public transit affordable! WTA will take a final vote on the fare increase at their December 11th meeting.

### Club Spotlight!



Our Club Spotlight for December is the Adaptive Sports Club! The club meets every Monday in the Recreation Center from 6:30-8:00 pm to practice a wide variety of adaptive sports such as wheelchair basketball, goalball, seated volleyball, adaptive biking and swimming, and gang ball. All are welcome, no wheelchair experience or basketball experience necessary! Check out their [WIN page](#), or Instagram, [@wwu\\_wheelball](#).

# ASWWU

# Executive Board and Senate Update

## ASWWU Lobby Day:

Calling all Western Students!

ASWWU Government is excited to share with you all the opportunity to participate in our annual Lobby Day this February 1st-2nd! Lobby Day is your chance to meet with state legislators in Olympia, share your perspective, and advocate for these issues:

1. Fair Funding to WWU
2. College Affordability
3. Basic Needs Access
4. OSE Collective Bargaining Rights
5. Undocumented Student Rights
6. Environmental Justice & Sustainability

Take charge of this opportunity to learn about our Washington State Legislature up close, connect with students and lawmakers, boost your resume with hands-on advocacy skills, and to have fun at our state capital with your Western community!

Sign-up now! It's first come, first serve and spots are limited! All training, food, lodging, and transportation will be provided for. Click [here](#) and fill out the WIN form before January 20th.

More details to follow! Happy lobbying!

## Event Spotlight

Environmental Club Showcase | Thursday, February 5th, 2026 from 4:00pm - 7:00pm.



Join Western's environmental clubs and community partners for an evening of collaboration, connection, and learning at the 2026 Environmental Club Showcase, featuring live music from the Western Americana Music Group and remarks from College of the Environment Dean Teena Gabrielson and Whatcom Land Trust Executive Director Rachel Vasak. Pizza, snacks, and refreshments will be provided, and attendees can register on WIN for updates: [here](#)

**Enjoy your Winter Break!**

