

AS Legislative Action Fund Funding Request

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Name of the Event/Project/Conference: United States Student Association (USSA) National Grassroots Legislative Conference and National Student Lobby Day (LegCon) 2014

Event Dates: March 14th-17th

Location: Washington DC

Estimated Number of Attendees: Five

Reason for Funding:

The United States Student Association (USSA) is the country's oldest, largest, and most inclusive student-led organization in the nation. USSA helps amplify the student voice at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing grassroots power to win concrete victories on student issues. Each spring USSA organizes the Grassroots Legislative Conference and National Student Lobby Day (LegCon). This three-day event (March 14th-17th) includes workshops, marches, rallies, and the opportunity for students to lobby their elected representatives on student issues. Past legislative conferences have resulted in Congress passing historic student aid reform and investing more federal money into higher education. Students at prior legislative conferences have attended Senate press conferences, bill signings with President Obama, and LegCon has had media coverage from the Washington Post, NPR, CNN, Fox News, the Nation, and USA Today.

USSA's LegCon is organized to develop students' abilities in advocacy, networking, lobbying, and protesting. LegCon is the largest lobbying event USSA holds and each year students from all over the country join to work towards affordable and accessible higher education. Sending five delegates to LegCon is a unique opportunity for Western's students' voices to be heard at the national level and ensure diverse representation of Western's study body. As Western seeks to increase our national engagement, five students attending LegCon would serve its purpose by bringing valuable skills back to Western's campus while helping to increase our national presence overall. Additionally, Western is an active and involved campus in USSA and several Western students hold Vice Chair positions on USSA's executive board. It is important that we continue to have Western represented in USSA and sending a large delegation to LegCon assures that we'll have continued involvement in USSA decision making.

Recommended delegation:

- Kaylee Galloway (Senior), AS VP for Governmental Affairs, Vice Chair of the USSA Pacific Northwest Region, USSA LegCon '13 attendee, USSA Congress '13 attendee, group leader
- Josie Ellison (Sophomore), AS VP for Academic Affairs (extensive knowledge with the WWU faculty and administration), involvement with WSA and Western Votes.

- Mayra Guizar (Junior), AS VP for Diversity, USSA Congress '14 attendee (where she served on a committee), Oregon Students of Color group leader, WS A and Western Votes involvement.
- Heather Heffelmire (Sophomore), Vice Chair of LAC, Statewide Representative on Western Votes, USSA Congress '13 attendee,
- Sarah Kohout (Junior), AS REP Committee Coordinator, Western Votes President

Each individual listed in this recommended delegation has a unique perspective to offer to the experience as well as capacity to bring it back to campus to effectively apply the skills and knowledge acquired while at LegCon. This group represents a great deal of diversity including different identities, experiences, and congressional districts represented. Three currently serve as members of the AS Board of Directors whom were elected by the student body. Three attended USSA Congress, so they have experience and knowledge that will maximize the LegCon experience. This group also has extensive experience and involvement with the AS, USSA, WS A, and Western Votes, through which they have developed advanced skills in lobbying and organizing.

In the event that one of these individuals is unable to attend, there will be a waitlist available for others who are interested. So far there is one person on the waitlist.

Total Anticipated Expenses:

Early Registration for five (deadline January 22nd): \$1225 (\$245 x 5)

Regular Registration for five: \$1375 (\$275 x 5)

Late Registration for five: \$1625 (\$325 x 5)

Lodging for Four Nights: \$900 (\$215 x 4)

Transportation: \$2250 (\$450 x 5)

Parking: \$60 (\$15x4)

Food: \$500 (\$100x5)

Total Anticipated Expenses: NTE \$6000

Amount Requested from the Legislative Action Fund: \$6000 (4,000 from USSA Expenses, 1,800 from Discretionary Fund, 200 from Additional Lobbying Efforts)