As Washington's third largest public university, Western is committed to serving the people of the state with a focus on academic excellence and inclusive achievement. Western's top legislative priorities for 2019 reflect the University's most urgent needs in order to help advance the State's education attainment goals - that by 2024, at least 70% of adults in Washington, ages 25-44, will have a post-secondary credential.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO STEM DEGREES

Western is experiencing unprecedented growth in the number of students majoring in STEM degree programs. These capacity constraints and bottlenecks in STEM programs limit WWU's ability to produce career-ready STEM graduates and delay students' time-to-graduation.

OPERATING REQUEST:

$7.6 million – Expand STEM Capacity – This proposal will address existing course bottlenecks and generate a total of 112 new STEM graduates each year in the high-demand fields of pre-healthcare, Energy Science, and Electrical Engineering. Elements of the proposal include:
- Addressing State's shortage of healthcare providers by expanding capacity within pre-healthcare degree pathways;
- Creating a Bachelor of Science degree program in Energy Science & Technology to address clean energy workforce needs; and
- Growing WWU's Electrical Engineering program to address student and workforce demand.

CAPITAL REQUEST:

$60 million – Interdisciplinary Sciences Building – This proposal will fund the construction of a 50,000 square foot addition to the existing Biology and Chemistry Building to support several STEM degree programs. The facility will
address existing space constraints and help WWU produce 70 additional degrees each year in STEM and high-demand fields.

$6.5 million – Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building – This proposal for pre-design/design funding will enable Western to plan for a 50,000 square foot building to address existing capacity constraints in the University's fastest growing majors and accommodate future growth, with the aim of tripling the number of electrical engineering graduates each year and increasing the number of computer science graduates by 50 percent. State funding will also leverage the strong potential for private-sector funding during the construction phase of the project.