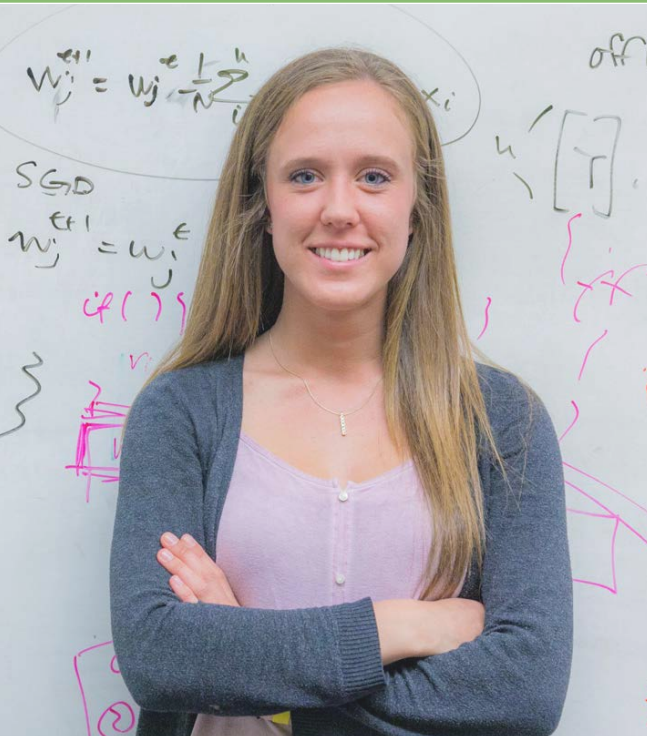


Opening Doors for
Washington's Future
STEM Workforce

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF STEM & HEALTH CARE LEADERS

THE CHALLENGE

In Washington, we are innovators: in software development, aerospace, clean technology, agriculture, biotech, global health and more. We are home to one of the fastest growing state economies with more jobs in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and health care than we can fill. Yet, college tuition is prohibitively expensive for too many of students who want to pursue STEM careers.

Across Washington, we have talented students ready to pursue their dreams of becoming engineers, computer scientists, and health care providers, but they cannot afford the staggering cost of a college education. Between 2005 and 2015, tuition for public universities in Washington more than doubled.

Yet, our state has a critical need for graduates to fill the growing number of high demand jobs in STEM fields.

A 2013 report by The Boston Consulting Group and The Washington Roundtable discovered 25,000 jobs in Washington unfilled due to a lack of qualified candidates, with approximately 80% of these unfilled jobs in highly-skilled STEM disciplines and health care. A 2015 report by the Technology Alliance found that Washington state had the highest ranking in the nation for STEM employment as a percentage of state employment.

But, these unfilled STEM and health care jobs have cascading negative effects.

Businesses spend valuable resources recruiting talent from out-of-state or overseas, or they may hire underqualified employees which hurts productivity. Moreover, they move jobs out of state which reduces state tax revenue.

We have the talent here at home to meet our workforce needs, but we must make the necessary education affordable. For the health of our state economy, we cannot afford to ignore the STEM skills gap.



WSOS BY THE NUMBERS

(as of March 2016)

5,400

Scholars have received funding to support earning their STEM and health care degrees

57%

of Scholars are women

59%

are the first in their family to attend college

46%

of Scholars are students of color

1,500

bachelor's degree graduates to date



THE ANSWER

In that spirit of innovation, Washington has created a novel response to this urgent workforce challenge. The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) is an unparalleled public-private venture that provides scholarships and support services to young low- and middle-income women and men pursuing science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and health care degrees at Washington colleges and universities.

WSOS is the first statewide scholarship fund in the nation focused solely on making high-demand STEM degrees affordable.

Founded in 2011 with bilateral support and leadership pledges from Microsoft and Boeing, our state legislature launched WSOS with HB 2088 to make Washington “the place where the world’s most productive companies find the world’s most talented people.” The bill commits the state to matching dollar for dollar all corporate and individual donations to WSOS. To date, the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship has raised more than **\$90 million** in private contributions and **awarded scholarships to more than 5,400 students**.

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship is an ambitious, statewide initiative that is preparing the next generation of STEM and health care professionals for successful, high-demand careers here at home.

WHO WE SERVE

Our Scholars are Washington residents with a high school diploma or GED from a Washington high school who are pursuing a bachelor’s degree in an eligible, high-demand STEM or health care field from an in-state public or private college or university.

The median family household income for the most recent cohort of WSOS Scholars was \$45,979. WSOS students must have a family income equal to or less than 125% of state median income (controlling for family size). WSOS provides up to \$22,500 per student over five years.

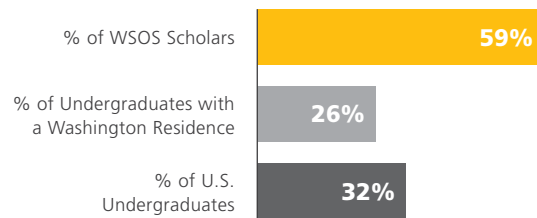
Across all cohorts to date, 57% of our Scholars are female and 46% are students of color.

In addition to scholarship dollars, WSOS provides Scholars with academic counseling, professional development, mentoring, connections to internships and opportunities to meet with industry professionals and visit corporate offices and research facilities. As a result, WSOS Scholars are completing degrees and finding employment in their fields of study at exceptional rates. A 2016 Post-Graduation survey of WSOS Scholars found 83% of recent graduates secured a job in their field of study or pursued an advanced degree within nine months of graduation.

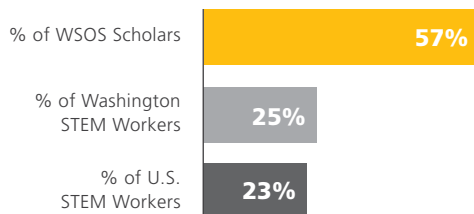
Perhaps most importantly, **91% of graduates who secured jobs in their field of study remained in Washington state**.

WSOS IMPACT

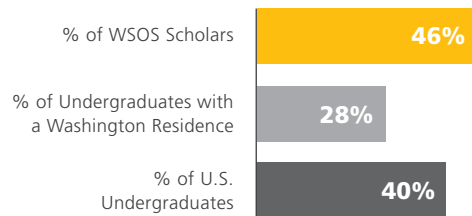
First Generation to Attend College



Female Representation



Students of Color



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship offers an unprecedented opportunity to change the lives of low- and middle-income Scholars while investing in the high-demand workforce Washington needs to thrive in the decades to come.

WSOS is uniquely positioned to:

- **Match private contributions dollar-for-dollar** with state funds
- **Provide a targeted, effective solution** to filling high-demand jobs with homegrown talent
- **Make college affordable** for low- and middle-income students
- **Open doors** for women and under-represented minorities to pursue careers in STEM and health care

With Microsoft's contribution covering all administrative costs, every dollar contributed will be granted in scholarships.

There is no other state in the nation with a public-private partnership of this kind. We invite you to become part of this unparalleled investment in the talent and business of tomorrow.

Contact

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WSOS-Specific Data: Washington State Opportunity Scholarship 2015 Legislative Report; College Success Foundation's Data Warehouse as of 12/31/15

Comparison Data: National Math and Science Initiative. (N.D.). The STEM crisis: STEM education statistics; Boston Consulting Group [BCG]. Wenstrup, J., Bona, C., Casale, M. (2014). Opportunity for all: Investing in Washington State's STEM education pipeline; Georgetown University Center on Education and the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), 2012; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12); U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Table 306.10; U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12)

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