

**WASHINGTON STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2019, 1-3 PM, MICROSOFT CAMPUS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Directors of the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) met on April 1, 2019 at the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

Board members: Brad Smith, Miller Adams, Joelle Denney, Mack Hogans, Jane Park, Gary Rubens, and Jim Sinegal; Antony Chiang and Mike Wilson by phone

Additional attendees: Naria Santa Lucia, Erin Ashley, Gina Breukelman, Theresa Britschgi, Jane Broom, Kimber Connors, Karyl Gregory, Caroline King, Jessica Monger, Cristal Rangel Peña, Yoko Shimomura, Dave Stoller and Steve Walker; Lianda Abraham, Terrie Ashby-Scott, Mesa Herman, Rachel Johnson, Patrick Kang, Jenna Magnotti, Joanna Moznette, Stan Pichinevskiy and Aileen Tubo by phone

**Meeting Called to Order**

Brad Smith called the board meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jim Sinegal moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2019 Board Meeting be approved. Mack Hogans seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**WSOS Scholar Spotlight**

Naria Santa Lucia, Executive Director at WSOS, introduced Cristal Rangel Peña, as WSOS' first Scholar Alumni hire. Peña reported that she is in her third week in her new position as Awards Coordinator at WSOS. She further reported that she was part of the second ever WSOS cohort and she is pleased to serve on the WSOS team with her unique perspective as a former Opportunity Scholar.

**2019-20 Applications & Selection**

Next, WSOS staff presented the 2019-20 WSOS application process for Cohort 8.

Kimber Connors, Deputy Director at WSOS, reported first on the re-envisioning of the essay questions for this year's application. Connors acknowledged the hard work of Aileen Tubo on the Awards Team for her effort in revising the questions. Connors reported that the revised essay questions yielded fewer applications but noted that eligibility numbers for the scholarship are higher this year. Connors also reported that all essay questions were read once and scored by staff, alumni or community volunteers. The scoring of the essays was then normalized using a formula. The goal for next year is to have each essay read and scored by two people.

Connors reported that 1,850 students will be selected from the 4,564 applications received once WSAC verifies their residency and family income and the selection model is approved by the Board. This year will mark the last large cohort because the Rubens scholarship will end. Next year, without additional fundraising for this specific baccalaureate scholarship, 750 students will be selected.

Connors reported the three guiding principles for selection: select students who are highly likely to persist to college graduation; prioritize statewide impact in specific, high-demand fields; promote equity of access to educational opportunity for students who might not otherwise achieve a bachelor's degree.

Connors presented a proposed selection model for Cohort 8 using modified measures and weights from last year. Connors reported that the intended major now represents families of majors. Connors presented Cohort 7's baseline selection criteria and then presented two possible options as Cohort 8's selection model. While

Option A speaks best to our legislative mandate, the Board discussed changing two of the weightings in this option with the intended outcome of representing every county in the state. The change involved reducing the weight of the first essay which assesses STEM interest (from 10% to 7.5%) and increasing the weight of the second essay which gauges resiliency and potential (from 10% to 12.5%). Steve Walker, Awards Administration Director at WSOS, ran immediately the data impact of this modification and confirmed the revised Option A selection model would enable the reach of our scholarship into all 39 counties in Washington.

Mack Hogans made a motion to approve the revised Option A for the Cohort 8 selection model. Jim Sinegal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### **Program Update**

Theresa Britschgi, WSOS Scholar Placement Director, announced two upcoming Skills that Shine networking events: Spokane on April 18 and Seattle on April 23. All board members are invited to attend these events.

Erin Ashley, WSOS Development Director, presented the new logo for our next OpportunityTalks Breakfast which will be held this year on November 6. Ashley reported that Adam Grant will be the keynote speaker and Mariam Mayanja will be our featured Scholar speaker. WSOS Board member Miller Adams and Sarah Bird, CEO of Moz, will serve as co-chairs and asks are out for two more co-chairs. Ashley will be contacting board members regarding the Challenge Fund.

Jessica Monger, WSOS External Affairs Director, reported on the increased earned media. Monger then reported on a bill in the current legislative session, HB2158, which would amend the definition of private sources to include municipalities, counties and federally-recognized native American tribes thus allowing all of these entities to invest in WSOS and receive matching dollars that can be only used per their municipality, county or tribal "program rules." This bill also makes clear that WSOS funds cannot be counted as state aid for the purposes of calculating College Bound awards. This ensures that Scholars will not see their Opportunity Scholarship dollars reduced because WSOS counts against their total award amount. This fix was particularly important for the Career and Technical Scholarship. The bill also strikes the service obligation for the advanced health care degree scholarship program.

#### **Finance & Program Administrator Update**

Mack Hogans, WSOS Finance & Investment Committee Chair, welcomed Yoko Shimomura as Washington STEM's new COO. Hogans reported that Clark Nuber's audit report on WSOS finances is complete and a clean opinion was issued. Hogans reported that committee members are fully confident in Washington STEM's financial reporting. Hogans further reported that WSIB provided the latest market report and WSOS' investments tracked similarly with dismal 4<sup>th</sup> quarter results. In fact, December's results wiped out gains from the whole year. In January, returns rebounded 8.2% but the market is still volatile. Some of the volatility was avoided with the new asset re-allocation completed by WSIB in November. Hogans reported that the Committee is satisfied with the soundness of WSOS investments.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 2:07 pm to review the performance of the WSOS Executive Director, Naria K. Santa Lucia. The Board reconvened in open session at 2:52 pm. Following the Executive Session, Hogans moved to recommend that program administrator Washington STEM increase compensation for the WSOS Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Jane Park and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karyl Gregory