



Impact in Action

WSU 2025



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

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Letter from the PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The past year marks a new chapter for Washington State University, shaped by a leadership transition and a renewed vision for navigating a changing higher education landscape. Since beginning my tenure in April 2025, I have prioritized listening across our campuses and communities, learning, gaining their insights, and reaffirming the strength of WSU's academic and research foundation as we face financial pressures, demographic shifts, and rising public expectations.

As a public land-grant university, facing financial pressures, demographic shifts, and rising public expectations, our decisions must be thoughtful, strategic, and in service to the people of Washington.

“ I am absolutely thrilled to be here. And I’m humbled and honored because I understand what it is we are stepping up to achieve together.”

A 21st-century land-grant university expands opportunity, advances problem-solving research, and operates as an integrated system that strengthens the state's economic and civic vitality. Our mission extends beyond degrees: we prepare graduates for a dynamic workforce shaped by AI, and support communities in filling critical career and research gaps across Washington.

Students remain at the heart of our progress. Expanding educational access and supporting degree completion for all learners, including place-bound learners, working adults, and returning students, strengthens WSU's role in workforce development statewide. Our research enterprise complements this mission, translating expertise in health, agriculture, energy, and other areas into practical solutions that benefit communities and industries.

Looking ahead, steady leadership and continued alignment between our mission and our people will be essential. The work of this year has clarified how WSU must function as a unified system and how we will measure and optimize our impact. As Washington's land-grant university, our responsibility endures through every challenge, and we will carry it forward with resilience, innovation, and Cougar spirit.



Betsy Cantwell
President

WSU'S 2025 ACHIEVEMENTS



Federal investment in aquaculture innovation

WSU secured \$50 million in federal investment sponsored by US Sen. Patty Murray to launch a statewide Program for Aquatic Excellence, strengthening salmon health, advancing sustainable aquaculture, and protecting aquatic ecosystems across Washington.



Elevating the game day experience

Fueled by over \$10 million in donor support, WSU Athletics launched a multi-phase upgrade to Gesa Field that includes an enhanced video board and audio system, and new dynamic lighting. These dedicated fan-experience upgrades will debut for the 2026 football season.



Rising in national and global rankings

WSU continues to climb in national and global rankings with a strategic focus on measurable outcomes, particularly in high-impact research and student social mobility.



A modern financial model for the future

WSU has modernized its budget model, designed to increase transparency, incentivize growth, and address the fiscal realities of a shifting higher education landscape.



Advancing sustainable aviation

WSU helped lead the launch of the Cascadia Sustainable Aviation Accelerator, a regional effort to reduce the environmental impact of air travel. The initiative brought together public, industry, research, Tribal, labor, and community partners to accelerate the production and adoption of sustainable aviation fuel, supported by a 2025 state legislative appropriation and \$10 million in private philanthropic funding.



Reimagining the Pac-12

WSU spearheaded the rebirth of the Pac-12 as a stable, nine-team conference, leveraging its legacy assets and new strategic partnerships to reignite conference-level competition and the path to a Pac-12 championship.



\$462M in research activity

WSU achieved \$462M in external research funding for FY25. As an R1 research university, WSU has research strengths in food security and sustainable agriculture; public health; environmental sciences and energy futures; biomedical and life sciences; advanced manufacturing; and emerging priorities in AI, machine learning, and robotics.



Assembled a high-performing leadership team

Under the direction of President Cantwell, WSU has streamlined leadership roles by combining related functions into integrated roles aligned with strategic priorities. WSU has a high-performance leadership team that blends visionary academic expertise with operational experience to drive institutional growth.



Strategic expansion in Seattle

WSU is strategically expanding its physical and programmatic presence in Seattle to better connect its world-class research and talent pipeline directly with the Puget Sound region's global industry leaders and urban innovation hub.



System-wide redesign

WSU launched a system-wide redesign process to explore how its five statewide campuses, Global Campus, and 39 county-based Extension offices can be more effectively aligned to meet the evolving needs of students, communities, and the state of Washington. WSU gathered survey data from over 1,700 constituent voices across the state and WSU community to create a strategic roadmap.

WSU by the NUMBERS

Fall 2025

21.4K

Undergraduate students

\$328M

Aid to all undergraduate students

400

Student athletes

4,000

Graduate and professional students

84%

Of undergraduates receive aid

29

Conference championships since 2020

35%

First-generation undergraduate students

41%

Of undergraduates pay no tuition

57%

Of undergraduate students graduate with no debt

6,583

Degrees awarded

5,655

Employees

11

Colleges

200+

Degrees offered

2,307

Faculty

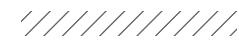
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Campuses





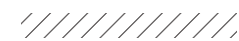
Challenges and OPPORTUNITIES



State budget

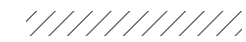
WSU has faced mounting state budget pressures that present ongoing near-term challenges. The governor's initially proposed operating budget would have created a net reduction of about \$18.1M for the university. The final budget included an operating reduction of \$3.3 million, far less than the initial proposal, along with meaningful investments in capital projects that will strengthen our campuses and our ability to serve students.

This final operating budget is a one-year solution to a longer-term financial challenge. It buys time and creates the opportunity to shape the university we will become for decades beyond the next budget cycle. As WSU continues aligning resources with its highest-impact programs, university leaders are working to sustain student access, research strength, and service to communities across Washington.



Higher education ROI narratives

WSU is strategically focused on preparing students to adapt and lead in a rapidly evolving, AI-shaped world while advancing the university's modern land-grant mission. This underscores the enduring value of a Washington State University degree which extends beyond lifetime earnings to include the "literacy of learning" or the ability to think critically, adapt, and contribute meaningfully in a changing world.



Olympia visits

WSU's Office of External Affairs & Government Relations has maintained active engagement with policymakers in Olympia to advocate for the university's students, research, and workforce mission. President Cantwell personally met with 41 elected officials and the director of the Office of Financial Management. Through coordinated advocacy across our system, including our Board of Regents, student leaders, faculty, staff, and advisory councils, we helped ensure that legislative outcomes were dramatically improved. This continued presence in Olympia reflects WSU's focus on advancing institutional priorities and communicating the university's value to the state.



Athletics budget, fundraising, changes to new Pac-12

NIL developments and the new Pac-12 present meaningful opportunities to strengthen and elevate the student-athlete experience. Near the end of the 2025 football season, WSU communicated the need for approximately \$20M in annual new revenue to address the revenue gap following the Pac-12 transition and support athletics while new revenue streams are developed. An initial \$5M in NIL support was identified as a priority to help jumpstart competitive success.

WSU in the NEWS

WSU previews Sunflare™ apple

Washington State University debuted Sunflare™, its first new apple since Cosmic Crisp®, offering the Pullman campus community an exclusive early tasting and spotlighting decades of tree fruit research and commercialization leadership. The Honeycrisp-Cripps Pink cross, developed at WSU and slated for a 2029 retail release, reflects the university's long-term investment in agricultural innovation. The preview earned very high-level national coverage including *The New York Times*, *Food & Wine*, *Axios*, *The Seattle Times*, and *Capital Press*.

Elderberry juice shows benefits for weight management, metabolic health

A Washington State University-led clinical trial published in the journal *Nutrients* found that consuming 12 ounces of elderberry juice daily for one week produced positive changes in the gut microbiome and improved glucose tolerance and fat oxidation in overweight adults. Researchers attribute these effects to elderberry's high anthocyanin concentration. The findings highlight elderberry's potential role in supporting metabolic health, though additional studies are needed to confirm long-term impacts across broader populations.

Researchers recreate ancient Egyptian blues

A WSU research team recreated Egyptian blue, the world's oldest synthetic pigment, developing 12 recipes using varied raw materials and heating times. Published in *NPJ Heritage Science*, the work provides new insights for archaeologists and conservators. Researchers also noted the pigment's unusual optical and magnetic properties, which may support emerging technological applications beyond cultural heritage.

Bat viruses similar to MERS have potential to jump to humans

A Washington State University-led study published in *Nature Communications* found that a subgroup of bat merbecoviruses known as HKU5 may be only a small mutation away from infecting humans. While no human cases have been identified, researchers say the viruses warrant close monitoring. The work also demonstrated how artificial intelligence tools such as AlphaFold 3 can accelerate analysis of viral infection mechanisms.



Feline therapy: Study suggests cats could fill an assistive niche

A study published in *Animals* and co-authored by a Washington State University researcher found that some cats exhibit behavioral traits similar to therapy dogs, including high sociability and tolerance for handling. The findings suggest felines could expand animal-assisted services and improve accessibility for some individuals, though researchers emphasize that not all cats are suited and further research is needed.

U.S. butterfly populations are severely declining

A comprehensive study published in *Science* found U.S. butterfly abundance declined 22% between 2000 and 2020, with ten times as many species decreasing as increasing. Led in part by Washington State University researchers, the analysis highlights widespread losses across butterfly families and underscores the urgent need for habitat protection and conservation action nationwide.

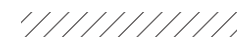


Student LIFE



Strong student engagement signals momentum for WSU

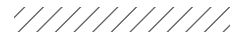
In addition to ranking #1 nationally by the Princeton Review in the category *Their Students Love These Colleges*, WSU's latest National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results highlight high levels of student involvement and satisfaction. Eighty-five percent of first-year students and 84% of seniors reported a strong connection to their educational experience. The findings show WSU outperforming peer institutions in key areas such as providing high-impact learning experiences including internships, service learning, and faculty research.



Peer mentorship opens doors to undergraduate research

WSU expands access to undergraduate research through collaborative programs and peer mentorship, helping students navigate pathways into labs and faculty-led projects. Events like the STEM Research Opportunities Fair, led by campus partners including the Office of Undergraduate Research and Team Mentoring Program, create direct connections between students and hands-on research experiences. By pairing students with experienced peers who understand the research process, WSU breaks down barriers to participation, building confidence and ensuring more students can engage in meaningful, career-shaping research earlier in their academic journeys.





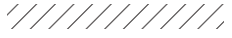
Distinguished scholars

Last academic year, 38 students were selected or finalists for prestigious, nationally competitive scholarships. This includes four students who received Fulbright awards, earning opportunities to teach and conduct research abroad, and two students who were named Goldwater Scholars – one of the nation’s highest honors for undergraduate researchers in science, engineering and mathematics.



FirstGen Forward Network Champion Status

WSU has earned FirstGen Forward Network Champion status, joining an elite group of institutions leading the nation in supporting first-generation students. Building on its longstanding role as a Network Leader, WSU achieved this distinction through continuous improvement and a strong commitment to boosting student success, retention, and completion. Champion institutions demonstrate proven results, and WSU stands among them, advancing impactful, evidence-based strategies that help first-generation students thrive.



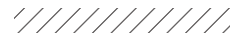
Expanding opportunity, empowering student success

WSU’s TRIO Student Support Services programs continue to expand their impact, with all programs recently renewed by the US Department of Education and two new grants awarded. Serving more than 800 students annually, TRIO provides academic support, tutoring, career development, and mentorship for first-generation students, those from limited-income households, and students with disabilities. Since launching at WSU in 2001, the program has helped participants achieve higher retention rates, stronger academic performance, and greater career readiness. New programs in Pullman and Vancouver will extend this support even further, enhancing services for students with disabilities and broadening access across campuses.



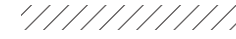
GenEd Reform

WSU is launching a bold, system-wide effort to reimagine general education and better meet the needs of today’s students. With UCORE now in its 15th year, this multiyear initiative will evaluate its strengths, explore leading models, and design a more student-centered curriculum. Led by the Provost’s Office and Faculty Senate, the work will align with WSU’s land-grant mission while preparing students to succeed in their careers, communities, and lifelong learning.



Apple Cup Food Pantry Challenge

The Apple Cup Food Pantry Challenge brings WSU and UW together in a spirited rivalry for a cause: fighting student hunger. WSU students, alumni, and fans have turned this friendly competition into a powerful, community-driven effort. Leading in funds raised and number of gifts in each of the challenge’s first two years, WSU has shown the event is about more than school pride — it strengthens the ongoing work of WSU food pantries and basic needs programs, expanding access to essential resources so students have the support they need to succeed.

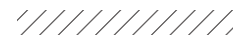


Student Advising and Resource Hub in Canvas

Launched in January 2026 in response to student feedback, WSU’s Student Advising and Resource Hub puts essential information in the Canvas environment students use every day. Designed as a system-wide resource for all undergraduates, the Hub streamlines access to key deadlines, reminders, advising tools, and support services within the platform students use every day. With quick links to resources like mental health crisis lines, reporting options, and campus support, it makes getting help faster, easier, and more accessible.



Academic ENTERPRISE



WSU: Leading Health Care in Washington

WSU is shaping the future of health care with top-performing graduates, innovative programs, and meaningful community impact.

Launched in 2026, WSU Health is an interprofessional collaboration among Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, College of Nursing, and College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, together with community partners across the state. By aligning its work with local needs, WSU Health is expanding access to world-class health care throughout Washington, advancing community-driven research, and training the next generation of health care providers to serve communities statewide.

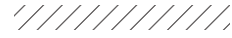
WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine celebrated 10 years of impact, training more than 900 health care professionals and expanding access to care across the state. Built on a mission of "homegrown health care," the college continues to address critical workforce shortages and improve health outcomes, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

WSU graduates over 200 BSN-prepared nursing students annually, the most in the state, with more than 13,700 nurses serving communities across Washington and beyond. New initiatives like the Rural Nursing Pathway program and the elementary school-based Logan Family Clinic launched in 2026 highlight WSU's commitment to community outreach.

The College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences class of 2025 achieved a 92.5% first-time pass rate on the NAPLEX pharmacy licensure exam, well above the national average of 86.8%. The outcome ranks the college #1 in the Pacific Northwest and #3 among public West Coast pharmacy schools.

Seventeen MD alumni have returned to the College of Medicine as community faculty, helping educate the next generation of Coug doctors by providing real-world experience and greater community impact.





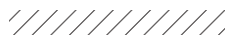
Data-driven strategies to advance student success

WSU is strengthening student success through a comprehensive, data-informed approach by partnering with the National Institute for Student Success to enhance retention, accelerate time to degree, and improve post-graduation outcomes. By expanding advising, success coaching, and early intervention strategies, WSU is building a more connected support system that keeps students on track and prepared for what's next.



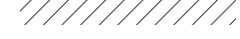
First-of-its-kind Indigenous Health Simulation Clinic

Set to open in fall 2026, WSU's Indigenous Health Simulation Clinic will be the first in the nation to blend Traditional and Western medicine through immersive, hands-on learning. This innovative space will equip students and health care professionals with the clinical and cultural skills needed to build trust and improve care for Tribal and underserved communities. Developed in partnership with Tribal leaders, the clinic will serve as a hub for collaboration, training, and advancing health equity.



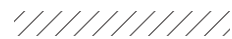
Transformational \$10 million gift elevates veterinary care and training

WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital received a \$10 million gift from Heidi Charleson and her late husband, Lou Woodworth, to expand and modernize emergency and critical care services, enhance advanced medical equipment, and strengthen hands-on learning for future veterinarians. The investment also supports scholarships and a Good Samaritan Fund to ensure animals receive lifesaving care regardless of owners' financial circumstances.



WSU Libraries boost research access

WSU Libraries is dramatically expanding access to Cambridge University Press journals, growing from 10 titles in 2025 to over 420 titles across all disciplines. This expansion gives faculty and students access to world-class research while offering WSU authors unlimited open access publishing, making their work freely available to readers worldwide.



National recognition for transforming student success

WSU earned national honors from the American Council on Education for its Transformational Change Initiative - an innovative, system-wide effort to improve student retention, degree completion, and overall success. The recognition highlights WSU's leadership in redesigning the student experience and delivering measurable, lasting impact across its campuses.



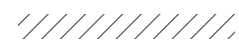
Elevating teaching excellence

WSU is one of just three institutions selected to participate in a program through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) and the National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH) to advance student success through effective teaching. This partnership enables 120 faculty to earn a nationally recognized Certification in Effective Teaching while applying proven, evidence-based practices that boost engagement and learning outcomes. WSU's strong faculty participation even prompted the sponsors to expand the program for the university, underscoring a deep commitment to teaching excellence.



Research ENTERPRISE

Research fuels discovery and innovation across Washington State University, powered by the systems, partnerships, and infrastructure that enable transformative breakthroughs. Inspired by WSU's land-grant mission, the university's research community expands capacity across disciplines, empowers faculty and students to push the boundaries of knowledge, and forges deep collaborations with industry, government, and community partners. Together, these efforts transform research into real-world impact, strengthening communities, advancing economic prosperity, and tackling the most pressing challenges facing Washington and the world.



WSU research by the numbers

1,400+

Awards totaling \$317 million in federal grants in FY25

\$1.5B

In grant funding at WSU in the past five years

2,000+

WSU employees supported in full or in part by federal grant funding

61%

Of WSU's federal grant funding comes from two federal agencies: US Department of Agriculture (32%), and the US Department of Health and Human Services (28%)

\$2.43

Produced in local economic impact for every dollar of National Institutes of Health funding, made possible by WSU health research

\$19M+

In FY25 licensing revenue, demonstrating WSU's commitment to moving scientific discoveries to the marketplace



R1 Classification

Washington State University was reconfirmed as a Research 1 (R1) institution in the 2025 Carnegie Classification, placing it among an elite group of six universities in the Northwest recognized for the highest levels of research activity and doctoral education.

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Leading the way with use-Inspired AI

Artificial intelligence is now central to WSU's identity as a future-ready, 21st-century land-grant university. Across the system, researchers are applying AI in areas critical to WSU's mission and Washington's needs from agriculture and energy systems to health care, sensor technology, and national security. Through partnerships spanning industry, defense, and government, WSU teams are using AI to improve resilience, safety, efficiency, and outcomes. These efforts are highlighted in WSU Insider's Leading the Way on AI series, which showcases how faculty and students are advancing responsible, real-world AI solutions with impact across the state and beyond.

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AI Innovation in agriculture

In 2025 and 2026, Washington State University significantly advanced the use of artificial intelligence across agriculture, moving research into real-world application. WSU led national efforts through the AgAID Institute to deploy AI tools that help farmers navigate labor shortages, water scarcity, and climate volatility. AI-enhanced forecasting through AgWeatherNet delivered field-level insights on weather, pests, and irrigation, while machine learning models improved snowpack and water availability predictions critical to irrigation planning. In orchards and fields, WSU researchers used AI-driven robotics and computer vision to automate pruning, thinning, and harvesting of specialty crops, directly addressing workforce constraints. AI has also been applied to livestock and rangeland management through StockSmart, which was recognized nationally in 2025, and to crop breeding, accelerating the development of higher yield, climate resilient wheat varieties. Together, these projects demonstrate WSU's momentum in translating AI innovation into practical tools that strengthen Washington's agricultural economy.

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Nuclear Science Center anniversary

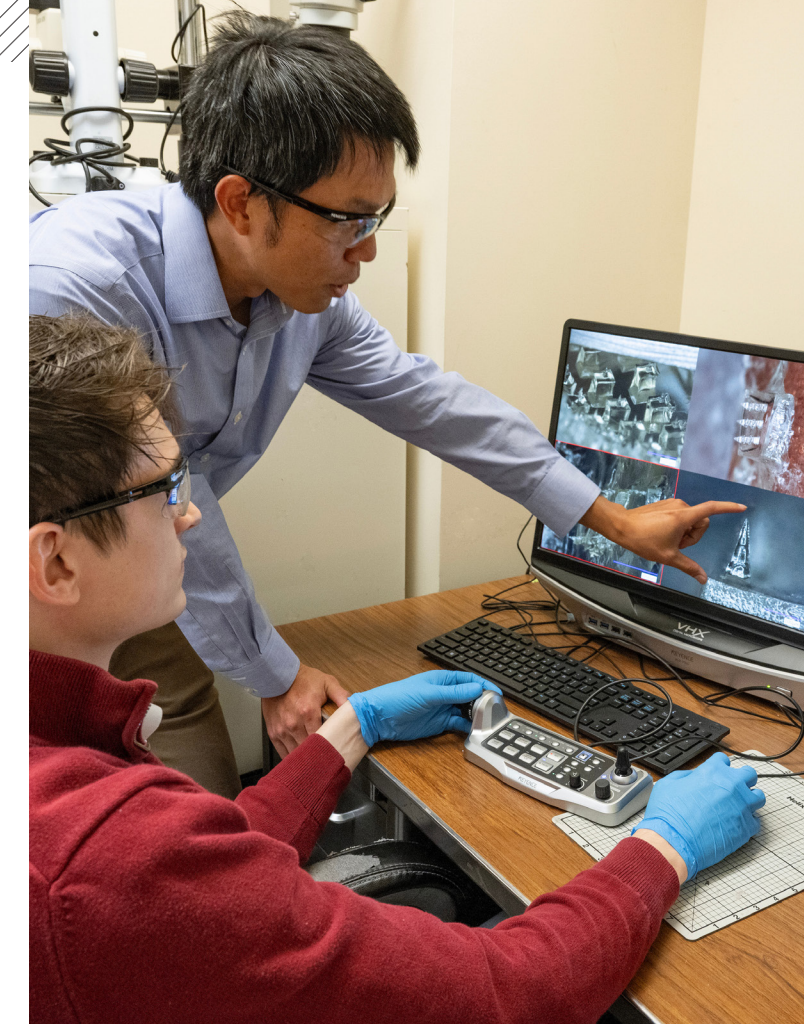
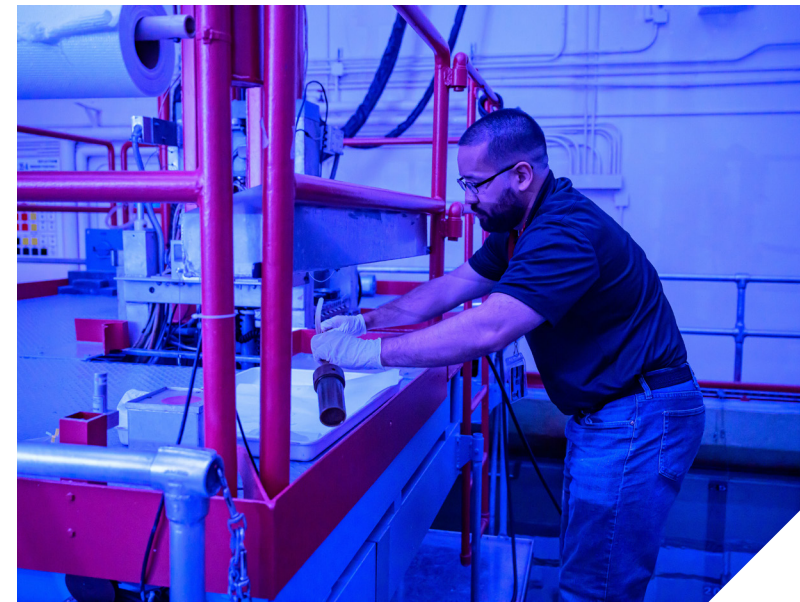
WSU marked 65 years since its reactor first went active, building on a legacy of research, training, and workforce development that continues to shape the nation's nuclear science, engineering, and technology landscape. At a moment when the country is entering a pivotal new era of advanced nuclear energy, WSU is expanding its leadership — growing its nuclear footprint, investing in cutting edge facilities, strengthening public-private partnerships, and aligning academic programs with the technologies poised to deliver the next generation of reliable, clean energy solutions.

A new 5,000 square-foot building now under construction will significantly enhance these capabilities. The facility will include three state-of-the-art hot cells for nuclear research and development, a chemistry wet lab, and additional specialized infrastructure that will accelerate innovation and workforce preparation. The \$7.6 million first phase of the project is funded through congressionally directed spending championed by U.S. Senator Patty Murray, with funding secured and construction scheduled to begin.

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Historic federal support

The Fiscal Year 2026 federal spending bill includes nearly \$55 million in direct support for WSU. This funding is purposed specifically for capital expenditures to advance research, workforce development, and infrastructure across Pullman, Spokane, and Puyallup. With bipartisan support from Washington's congressional delegation, the funding includes \$50 million championed by Senator Patty Murray to launch a statewide Program for Aquatic Excellence, strengthening salmon health, advancing sustainable aquaculture, and protecting aquatic ecosystems statewide; \$2 million supported by U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell to modernize our National Semiconductor Crystal Growth Center; \$1 million secured by U.S. Representative Michael Baumgartner to support the USDA Agricultural Research Service Plant Biosciences Building; and \$914,047 to expand interprofessional health sciences education.



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AI in Aquaculture

Washington State University has secured a \$50 million federal investment to launch the Program for Aquatic Excellence, strengthening salmon health, sustainable aquaculture, and ecosystem resilience across Washington. Backed by Senator Patty Murray, the funding builds research infrastructure at WSU Pullman and Puyallup and integrates artificial intelligence to improve disease detection, environmental monitoring, and hatchery efficiency. The program supports salmon recovery, Tribal partnerships, workforce development, and regional food security across the Pacific Northwest.

WSU Athletics

ENTERPRISE



Championship successes

Washington State football capped the 2025 season with a bowl victory over Utah State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl, marking the program's 20th postseason appearance. The win reflected the team's resilience and provided positive momentum as the Cougars continue building strength and consistency within the program.

WSU student-athletes also excelled across Olympic sports. Swimming standouts earned All-America honors at the NCAA Championships, while cross country featured multiple individual champions and swept both the men's and women's team titles at the West Coast Conference Championships. Both swim and cross country coaches earned Conference Coach of the Year honors. Cougar Baseball closed its regular season with six straight series wins and earned one of the top two seeds at the conference tournament, marking its first postseason appearance since 2010. From conference titles to postseason victories, the Cougars showcased competitive excellence across programs, cementing 2025 as a banner year for WSU Athletics.

Academic excellence

WSU student-athletes continue to deliver strong academic performances, posting a cumulative GPA of 3.36 across all programs. Seventy-five percent of student-athletes earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and 135 student-athletes were named to the President's Honor Roll in Fall 2025, reflecting a department-wide commitment to academic achievement alongside athletic competition.

Integrated academic support for student-athletes

Washington State University Athletics continues to prioritize academic success through programs like Peer Academic Counselors, Summer Bridge, and comprehensive tutoring support. Student-athletes credit these resources with helping them balance rigorous training and coursework. The coordinated approach reinforces WSU's commitment to keeping student-athletes on track to degree completion while supporting their overall transition to college.



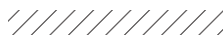
Elevating the game day experience

Powered by more than \$10 million in donor support, WSU Athletics launched a multi-phase transformation of Gesa Field improvements. Upgrades include a larger state-of-the-art video board, enhanced audio system, and new on-field lighting. Fully donor funded, the multi-phase project aims to elevate the Cougar football gameday experience beginning with the 2026 season.

Expanded beverage options across athletics venues

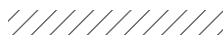
WSU Athletics enhanced the fan experience during the 2025 athletic seasons by launching a walk-around beer and wine pilot program at Gesa Field and select athletics venues. Developed in collaboration with Aramark Sports + Entertainment and the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board, the initiative expanded access to alcohol sales for football, men's and women's basketball, baseball, and soccer while maintaining a strong emphasis on safety and responsible consumption.





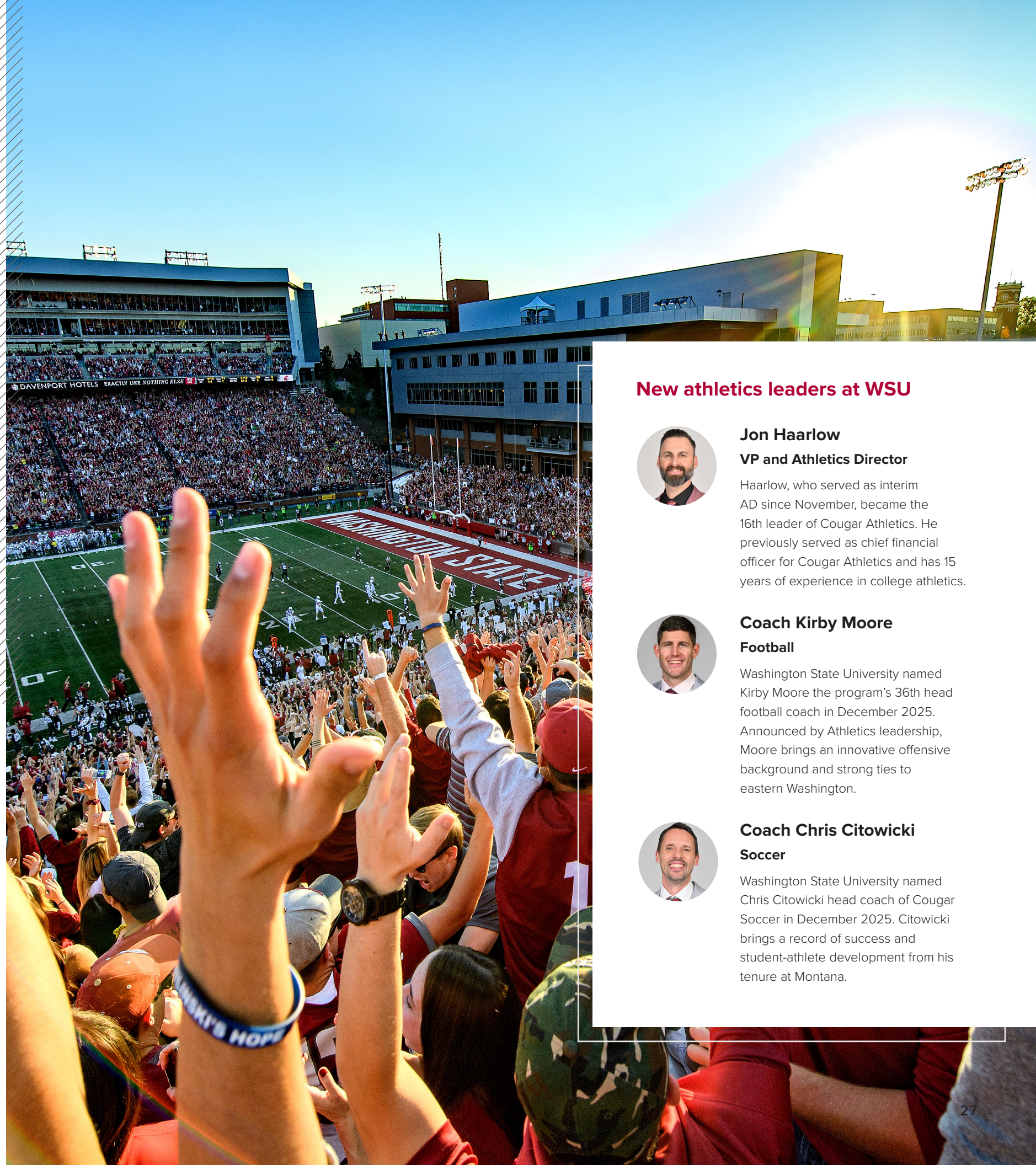
Building a competitive and sustainable athletics model

Washington State University's ability to succeed in today's rapidly changing collegiate athletics landscape hinges on the combined power of NIL opportunities and strong support for the Cougar Athletic Fund. NIL enables our student-athletes to fully realize the value of their talents, while the Cougar Athletic Fund sustains the scholarships, facilities, and support systems that drive excellence. To support this evolving model, Washington State University restructured operations to better align resources, clarify roles, and strengthen its ability to compete effectively in the NIL era. Together, these efforts allow WSU to compete and win. The window is now: delaying engagement puts competitiveness at risk, while acting today directly strengthens the future of Cougar Athletics and the University as a whole.



New era, new leaders for Cougar athletics

WSU is building momentum with the permanent appointment of an athletics director and the hiring of two dynamic head coaches. In April interim AD Jon Haarlow was named permanent Vice President and Director of Athletics. Kirby Moore takes the helm of Cougar football, bringing an innovative offensive mindset and deep roots in eastern Washington. Chris Citowicki leads Cougar soccer, adding a proven track record of success and student-athlete development.



New athletics leaders at WSU



Jon Haarlow
VP and Athletics Director

Haarlow, who served as interim AD since November, became the 16th leader of Cougar Athletics. He previously served as chief financial officer for Cougar Athletics and has 15 years of experience in college athletics.



Coach Kirby Moore
Football

Washington State University named Kirby Moore the program's 36th head football coach in December 2025. Announced by Athletics leadership, Moore brings an innovative offensive background and strong ties to eastern Washington.



Coach Chris Citowicki
Soccer

Washington State University named Chris Citowicki head coach of Cougar Soccer in December 2025. Citowicki brings a record of success and student-athlete development from his tenure at Montana.

Land-grant MISSION

WSU recognized for excellence in community engagement

WSU once again earned the Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, reaffirming our longstanding commitment to Washington communities. Recently renewed in January 2026, the designation places WSU among a small group of nationwide institutions, highlighting the Cougar identity to build meaningful partnerships, expand service opportunities, and address pressing societal needs. WSU's application featured the Center for Civic Engagement's new Community-Engaged Scholars program, the continued use of GivePulse, WSU's online community engagement platform, and impactful work across all WSU campuses, Extension centers, and community-based programs.

WSU's economic impact

\$4B

Total economic impact generated in Washington

\$403M

In annual research expenditures

\$65M+

Invested across Washington's counties and tribal areas through WSU Extension, advancing food systems, youth development, and economic resilience

\$89M

Generated by WSU Athletics in tickets and concessions, fundraising, licensing, sponsorship, media, and conference revenues each year

\$46B

Annual state revenue through research and development in agriculture, energy, public health, veterinary medicine, and sustainable aviation fuels

\$30M

Licensing revenue generated by Cosmic Crisp®, a WSU-bred apple, since it was introduced in 2019

Healthy people, healthy pets

Each spring, WSU hosts the Healthy People + Healthy Pets clinic in Spokane, providing free health care for low-income individuals or people experiencing homelessness and their pets. Veterinary and nursing students, guided by faculty, deliver vaccinations, health screenings, and basic treatments at no cost. This annual clinic highlights collaboration between WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Nursing, combining education, service, and community impact.



WSU and Spokane Public Schools launch Logan Family Clinic

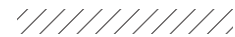
WSU and Spokane Public Schools have opened the Logan Family Clinic, a community-based primary care clinic inside Logan Elementary School. The clinic brings health care directly to students and families, increasing access where it's needed most. Operated by WSU Health, the university's new academic health network, the clinic integrates clinical care, student training, and research across the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences – WSU's first university-run, off-campus health clinic.

Service learning at WSU

WSU's service-learning programs advance the university's land-grant mission by connecting students with real-world challenges, expanding access to education, and fostering community engagement. Supported by the Center for Civic Engagement, faculty creatively integrate service into coursework, connecting student learning to community-identified needs.

As an example, WSU landscape architecture students took on a meaningful, real-world challenge by redesigning the exercise yard at the Washington State Penitentiary's minimum-security unit in Walla Walla. Tasked by faculty to imagine a multi-use space with greenery, walking paths, athletic areas, seating, and murals, students balanced security with rehabilitation as part of the state's Washington Way initiative. Corrections officials selected a student's design for its adaptability and human-centered approach and were impressed enough to share it with international experts. The project not only enriched student learning but also contributes to efforts that can improve well-being and reintegration outcomes.

Global Summit LAUNCH



WSU Global Summit: Higher Education in the Age of AI

WSU Global Summit convened more than 1,000 participants including faculty, students, academic leaders, policymakers, and global technology partners to position Washington State University at the forefront of digital fluency, workforce alignment, and future-ready education. Joined by leaders from Microsoft, Google, Adobe, Amazon Web Services, and Oracle, the summit's transformative technology panels, open discussion, and hands-on innovation focused on one shared goal: turning ideas into action for WSU's future.

“ We’re entering a new era that may be as profound a shift as the industrial revolution or the information revolution.”

Doug Burger
Corporate Vice President,
Microsoft Research
Global Summit Panelist

Once a Cougar, ALWAYS A COUG

The Washington State University Alumni Association (WSUAA) stands out as one of the most passionate and fastest-growing alumni organizations in the country.



Growing in Leaps and Bounds

The WSUAA has more than doubled its membership in recent years. This explosive growth is powered by a multi-tiered membership model that welcomes everyone - not just graduates. They offer specific paths for Alumni & Friends (fans and supporters), Recent Grads, Golden Grads (those who graduated 50+ years ago), as well as Current Students.



Cougs Connect Program

Cougs Connect, a program offered through the WSU Alumni Association, is designed to help Cougs nationwide build meaningful connections through mentoring, networking, and ongoing engagement. The program continues to grow with over 1,900 members, including students, alumni, and WSU faculty and staff.



“Adopt a Cougar”

One of the most unique traditions established by the WSUAA Board of Directors is the Adopted Cougar Award - a way to honor loyal, dedicated supporters of WSU who did not actually attend the university.



Go Cougs!

#7

Top 20 Best Alumni Networks at
Public Schools (Princeton Review)



“ The Miners have poured their hearts into this place for the last 30 years, and I am honored to be part of their vision for the future.”

Andy Perleberg
WSU Extension forester



Grounding Our FOUNDATION

Couple donates 100-acre tree farm to WSU Extension Forestry

Lynn and Becky Miner donated their nearly 100-acre Casa Becca del Norté tree farm in Chewelah to Washington State University Extension Forestry, establishing WSU's first school forest. The gift will support hands-on education, research, and outreach for family forest owners, creating a living classroom focused on stewardship, wildfire resilience, and sustainable forest management.

Industry tools, workforce-ready engineers

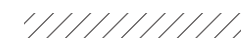
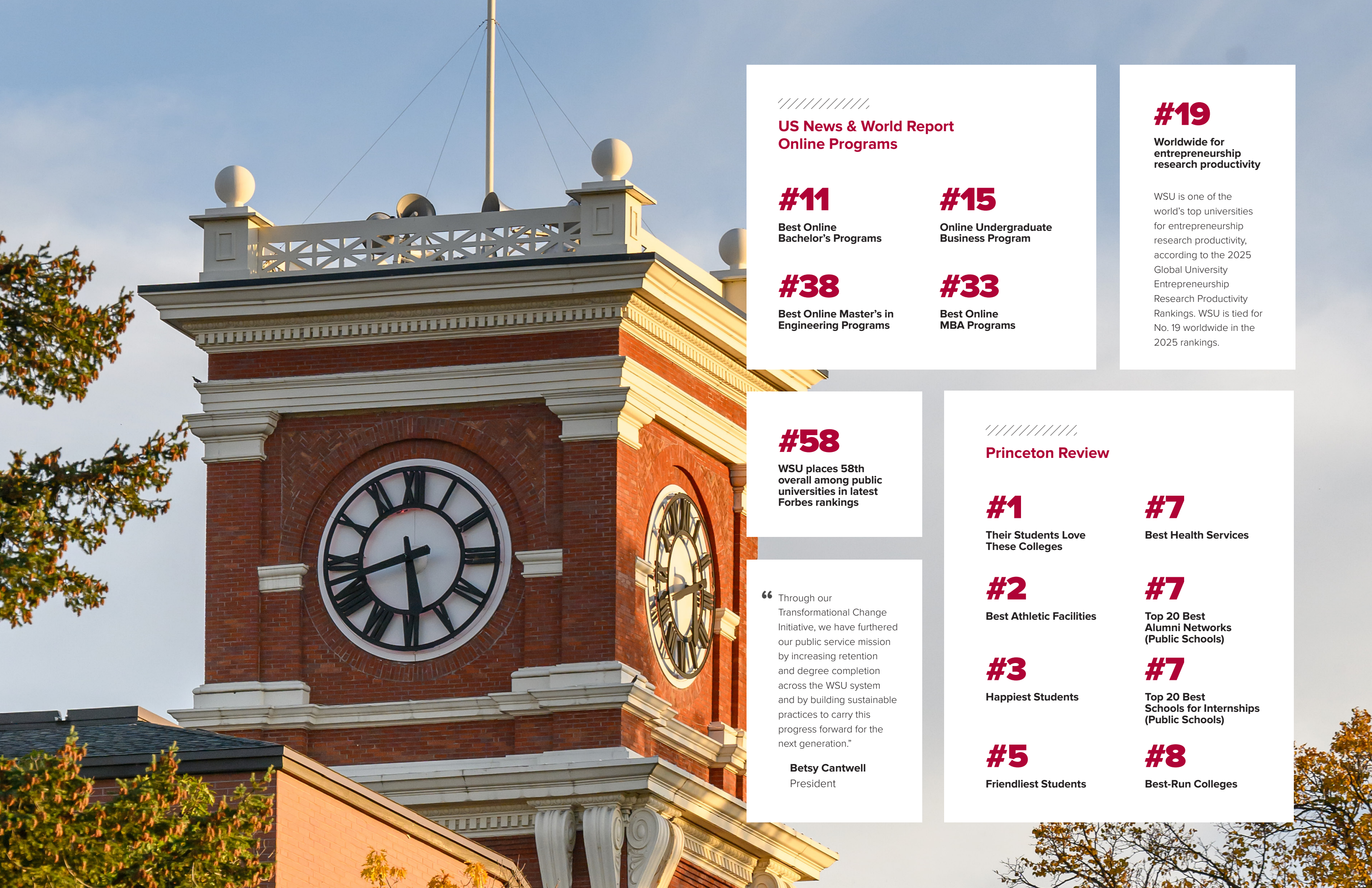
A partnership with Fluke Corporation brings professional-grade engineering tools directly into WSU classrooms and labs, expanding hands-on learning for more than 4,000 students across five campuses. By working with the same diagnostic and measurement equipment used in industry, students gain practical experience that bridges theory and real-world application. The new Fluke Engineering Lab at WSU Everett, combined with faculty collaboration and mentorship, strengthens career readiness and accelerates the transition from classroom to workforce. This gift deepens a decades-long partnership and advances WSU's commitment to producing engineers prepared to contribute on day one.

A legacy that opens doors for Cougs

Hal and Wilma Stellingwerf's \$1.5 million bequest to Washington State University is a powerful extension of lives shaped by perseverance, service, and belief in education. Their gift, which is the largest ever to the Crimson Opportunity Scholarship, will support students with financial need across all WSU campuses, just as a single act of generosity once opened the door for Hal to attend college himself. Rooted in modest beginnings and guided by a deep sense of responsibility to others, the Stellingwerfs chose to invest in opportunity over recognition. Through this final act, their legacy will live on in every student who gains the chance to stay, succeed, and graduate because someone believed in them.

When compassion becomes care

Heidi Charleson and Lou Woodworth's \$10 million gift ensures that animals like Yuna, a dog rescued from a devastating house fire, receive lifesaving care when it matters most, and that compassion is never limited by circumstance. Their generosity strengthens emergency care, eases the burden on families in crisis, and opens doors for future veterinarians. From the hospital floor to the classroom, their legacy honors the depth of the human-animal bond, shaping skilled healers and expanding access to care across Washington. It is a gift rooted in love, carried forward through healing, hope, and possibility.



**US News & World Report
Online Programs**

#11

**Best Online
Bachelor's Programs**

#15

**Online Undergraduate
Business Program**

#38

**Best Online Master's in
Engineering Programs**

#33

**Best Online
MBA Programs**

#19

**Worldwide for
entrepreneurship
research productivity**

WSU is one of the world's top universities for entrepreneurship research productivity, according to the 2025 Global University Entrepreneurship Research Productivity Rankings. WSU is tied for No. 19 worldwide in the 2025 rankings.

#58

**WSU places 58th
overall among public
universities in latest
Forbes rankings**



Princeton Review

#1

**Their Students Love
These Colleges**

#7

Best Health Services

#2

Best Athletic Facilities

#7

**Top 20 Best
Alumni Networks
(Public Schools)**

#3

Happiest Students

#7

**Top 20 Best
Schools for Internships
(Public Schools)**

#5

Friendliest Students

#8

Best-Run Colleges

“ Through our Transformational Change Initiative, we have furthered our public service mission by increasing retention and degree completion across the WSU system and by building sustainable practices to carry this progress forward for the next generation.”

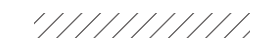
Betsy Cantwell
President

Looking AHEAD

President Cantwell completed a comprehensive tour of the WSU system, holding active listening sessions across all six campuses: Everett, Pullman, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, and WSU Global to capture community-driven insights from faculty, staff, students and community members. Feedback gathered formed a robust data set to directly inform the System-wide Redesign process which is anchored in the university's six strategic pillars:

Six strategic pillar areas

- 1 Access and student success**
Providing student access to exceptional, affordable and lifelong education throughout WA and the world.
- 2 Academic excellence and modernization**
Modernizing the WSU academic core through curricular and teaching innovation with digital tools to prepare students for the future.
- 3 Innovation and use-inspired research**
Expanding our role as a research powerhouse, dedicated to solving state-specific and global challenges.
- 4 Systemwide integration and institutional agility**
Redesigning the WSU system for fiscal transparency, strategic alignment and efficiency.
- 5 WSU as the 21st century land grant**
Improving the health and well-being of the communities we serve.
- 6 Elevate the Cougar identity and brand**
Strengthening our brand for lifelong Cougar identity.



System-wide Redesign

The WSU System-wide Redesign process will conclude in summer 2026. Concept proposals will be translated into action plans that serve as a strategic roadmap for the future defining how WSU's five statewide campuses, Global Campus, and 39 county-based Extension offices will evolve to meet the changing needs of students, communities, and the state of Washington. WSU is committed to strengthening its public service, land-grant mission, increasing impact, and building a more resilient and responsive university system now and for decades to come.



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY