



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021



MAKE WAVES.

Dear Friends of Western Washington University,

I imagine that the first anxious days after the declaration of the COVID-19 health emergency remain vivid in your memory, as they do in mine. I doubt that very many of us understood then that we were being plunged into a crisis of unprecedented scale, which would evolve, intensify and persist for nearly two years and counting.

Many of our students have had an especially tough go of it. Some lost jobs and income. Others struggled to secure quality internet access. All of our students, new and returning, have been deprived of campus experiences that are such a formative part of university life. And, of course, nearly every aspect of teaching and service has had to be reinvented. Meanwhile, the line between work and domestic life was blurred and the pace of work often seemed to accelerate exponentially in the digital environment. Figuratively and literally, we struggled to find the bandwidth to handle everything.

But as I reflect on what our community has accomplished and take stock of some key indicators of student and institutional success, I believe that we have every reason to feel greatly encouraged by what we've achieved.

While we are not completely out of the woods as the highly contagious delta variant drives new waves of infections especially among the unvaccinated, we are nonetheless emerging with renewed purpose and with a strategy that embraces the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural dynamism of our world and takes on the critical challenges of tomorrow. There are already good signs:

- In terms of enrollment, I'm very pleased to report that applications, admits and confirmations for new first-year students are comparable to fall 2019, which set an institutional record for both overall and first-year enrollment including our most diverse first-year class ever. For a deeper dive into enrollment data at Western, visit oie.wwu.edu/factbook
- We are also building greater awareness in out-of-state markets since the launch of our non-resident digital marketing efforts in fall 2019, with non-resident applications up nearly 25 percent from fall 2019 to fall 2021.
- The Honors College has experienced a banner recruitment year, and there are early signs it will also have stronger diversity in its cohort in fall 2021. Graduate programs, too, are getting many more applications for admission than in recent years, up by 32.5 percent from fall 2020.

- We are close to concluding the capital campaign for the new Kaiser Borsari Hall to house expanded electrical engineering, computer science and energy science programs. The internationally acclaimed sustainable design expert Jason F. McLennan is guiding the net-zero energy/zero carbon design strategy for the building. When complete, Kaiser Borsari Hall will be the only carbon positive academic facility in the region, among only a handful in the nation, and will significantly advance Western's vision to become the region's first carbon neutral university campus.
- Federal stimulus funding coupled with better-than-projected state revenue collections resulted in a robust state operating budget with important investments in WWU, including funding for the state supported portion of Kaiser Borsari Hall and for construction of a Coast Salish-style longhouse on Western's Bellingham campus. WWU also received pre-design funding for a Student Development and Success Center and sorely needed investment in preservation projects, classroom and lab upgrades and critical safety and access control upgrades.
- We are also pleased to have recurring funding for a new Ethnic Studies Program, more robust graduate assistant stipends to make them current and competitive, and increased mental health counseling and other critical student support resources.
- Finally, I am pleased to welcome three new accomplished colleagues to Western's leadership team. Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs Joyce Lopes comes to WWU from a similar position at Sonoma State University, having served in key finance and administrative management roles in K-12, community college and California State University system institutions. Kim O'Neill is our new vice president for Advancement and CEO of the WWU Foundation who joins WWU after a successful 16-year career at the University of Idaho and Texas Tech. Christopher "Caskey" Russell joins us as dean of the Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies. An enrolled member of the Tlingit Indian Tribe of Alaska, Caskey most recently served as director of Native American and Indigenous Studies and assistant director of the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice at the University of Wyoming.

Even in the midst of the health pandemic, I have continued to remind myself that our forward momentum is driven by our values and the vision that we articulated in our strategic plan in 2018. We are a mission-driven

community that puts people first, and the social and political dynamics of the past few years have only intensified that imperative. An important element of our climate and culture work is our ability to see humanity in ourselves and others, and above all to ensure that we consciously work to uplift others.

To that end, the Board of Trustees approved the naming of our new residence hall after Western's first Black student, Alma Clark Glass, who attended the university in 1906. The building's first student residents moved in this fall.

A Legacy Review Task Force was charged with reviewing the names associated with buildings on Western's Bellingham campus, including Huxley College of the Environment, and to recommend to the Board of Trustees whether the university should consider removing any of those names. Their report is a powerful reminder that who, and what, we choose to honor is a direct reflection of our values. I look forward to a thorough evaluation of the recommendations of the task force during the 2021-22 academic year.

Finally, we have established a university-level Office of Equity to be headed by a Chief Diversity Officer, a cabinet-level position reporting directly to me. We are also in the process of hiring an African American Retention counselor (partially funded with philanthropic support) and a director of Multicultural Student Services, with appointments expected to be in place during the 2021-22 academic year.

I remain deeply committed to Western's priorities of advancing inclusive student success, increasing Washington impact, and enhancing academic excellence—they were relevant before the pandemic and they are even more relevant now, and I look forward to forging ahead with even more urgency as we emerge from this global crisis.

Sincerely,

Sabah Randhawa

Sabah Randhawa, President



President Sabah Randhawa and the WWU Board of Trustees toured Alma Clark Glass Hall over the summer as the new residence hall was in the final stages of construction.

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE SUCCESS

Embracing bilingual education to break down barriers

Azucena Zavala Montalvo has wanted to be a teacher since she was a little girl growing up in Mexico. When she immigrated to the U.S. with her family at age 16 and began navigating the challenges of high school while mastering a new language, she focused her plans on a career in bilingual education.

“I want to provide students with the support I needed when I was going through school,” Zavala said.

After high school, Zavala taught at a bilingual preschool for several years while completing early childhood courses at Skagit Valley College, a partner in Woodring’s Maestros Para el Pueblo program that encourages bilingual and Latinx students to come to Western to earn their teaching degrees.

At Western Zavala earned admiration from faculty for her excellence in the classroom and her dedication to all of her students. She presented research at the first conference held in Spanish by the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children and helped adapt curriculum to improve the experiences of immigrant families in public schools. She also spoke to state legislators about how

the standardized test for teacher candidates got in the way of the state’s goal of hiring a more diverse teacher workforce.

In 2021 Woodring faculty selected Zavala to receive the Presidential Scholar award, Western’s highest honor for graduating seniors. She has also, at long last, begun her career as a bilingual teacher in the Mount Vernon School District. Zavala wants to share with students her love of learning and inspire them to be critical thinkers who embrace diversity.



WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:

INCLUSIVE SUCCESS	2018-19	2019-20	TARGET 2024-25
First-year Retention Rate			
Overall	81.4%	82.0%	87-90%
Students of Color	79.3%	79.4%	87-90%
Pell Grant Eligible	76.5%	76.6%	87-90%
Six-year Graduation Rate			
Overall	68.1%	67.9%	75-80%
Students of Color	63.6%	62.6%	75-80%
Pell Grant Eligible	61.2%	57.4%	75-80%
Transfer Four-year Graduation Rate			
Overall	74%	70%	75-80%
Students of Color	72%	68%	75-80%
Pell Grant Eligible	73%	68%	75-80%



In partnership with the city of Bellingham, Western plans to build a Coast Salish-style longhouse adjacent to Sehome Arboretum.

Plans for a longhouse take shape

Western is building a Coast Salish-style longhouse on campus that will serve as an important cultural center for Indigenous students and a gathering space for the community.

The State Legislature gave Western \$4.5 million in the 2021-23 capital budget to design and build the longhouse, which will reflect traditional Coast Salish architecture and design and will be located adjacent to Sehome Arboretum in partnership with the city of Bellingham.

Traditionally, longhouses were the homes for Coast Salish families, said Laural Ballew, Western's executive director of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations Relations & Tribal Liaison to the president. This longhouse will provide a significant gathering space for Western's Indigenous students, and our community at large, with a focus on resilience, wellness and healing.

While the State Legislature funded the vast majority of the project, the longhouse will be a public-private partnership: Western will work with private donors to raise at least \$500,000 to complete the building.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING THE LONGHOUSE PROJECT

Manca Valum
manca.valum@wwu.edu
360-650-6542



Gilman Scholars' 2021 Class Breaks Records

More Western students than ever are receiving prestigious Gilman scholarships to study abroad.

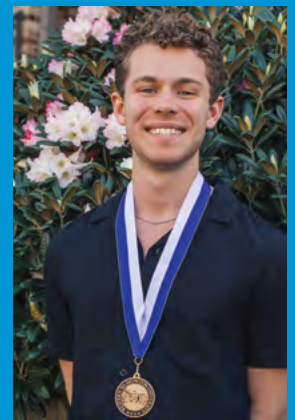
Ten Western undergraduates received the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad in 2021, the highest number of awards ever given to Western students in a single term.

Gilman scholarships, awarded through the State Department, are highly competitive scholarships of \$1,000 to \$8,000 to students who otherwise would be unable to study abroad.

Due to the pandemic, most of the students delayed their programs or opted to complete remote programs. But the pandemic hasn't dissuaded WWU students from making international plans.

Growing through music

During his time at Western, 2021 graduate and Pride Foundation Scholar Luke Arnold found that his deep interest in psychology was intertwined with his passion for performing and teaching piano.



A strong, nurturing relationship with a piano teacher can provide a safe place for people to better understand themselves, grow in their creativity, and process life events, said Arnold, a thoughtful, imaginative and powerful pianist who studied with Professors Milica Jelača Jovanović and Jeffrey Gilliam.

In psychology, Arnold contributed to research in two labs, studying cross-cultural research with Professor Jeff King and meditation practice with Professor Barbara Lehman.

Ultimately, Arnold earned degrees in both fields, a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Science, with magna cum laude honors in both. As he plans a career that combines piano performance and teaching, Arnold wants to be a nurturing, empowering teacher for his own students, particularly young queer students.

INCREASING WASHINGTON IMPACT

Keeping an eye on the Salish Sea

Western’s Salish Sea Institute’s new, comprehensive State of the Salish Sea report illustrates how the ecosystem is under relentless pressure from an accelerating convergence of global and local environmental stressors and the cumulative impacts of 150 years of development and alteration of our watersheds and seascape.

The State of the Salish Sea provides an overall assessment of the health of this vital waterway by summarizing stressors—primarily climate change and human development—that are contributing to ecosystem decline.

The lead author of the report is WWU Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Kathryn Sobocinski, with more than 20 guest authors and contributors from the United States and Canada adding context and research from across a broad spectrum of fields and disciplines.

Learn more about the State of the Salish Sea report and about the Salish Sea Institute at wp.wwu.edu/salishsea



WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:

WASHINGTON IMPACT	2018-19	2019-20	TARGET 2024-25
Degrees Awarded			
Total	3,962	3,906	4,200-4,500
Graduate	263	241	350-375
State’s High Need Areas	1,295	1,351	1,450-1,500
Students of Color	26.0%	26.9%	30-35%
Enrollment			
Outside Western’s Main Campus & Extended Education	6.6%	6.0%	8-10%



Student Zoë Evans-Agnew, '21, worked in a COVID testing center in the midst of the pandemic.

Helping the community during the pandemic

When the pandemic hit during Zoë Evans-Agnew's junior year at Western, she wanted to find a way to help.

So in March 2020, the behavioral neuroscience major started working at Northwest Laboratory, preparing test kits and working in the drive-through testing line.

"It was terrifying at first because we had little information about how the virus worked, but it gave me purpose and a sense of community during that isolating time," the Tacoma resident said.

Then in July 2020 and throughout her senior year, Evans-Agnew went to work as a certified nursing assistant, caring for older adults who were isolated from loved ones to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

"It was startling to care for older adults who were being hit hardest by the pandemic," she said.

After graduating in 2021, Evans-Agnew enrolled at Seattle University and began working toward a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree to become a psychiatric mental health practitioner. She wants to focus her work on survivors of sexual violence and trauma and underserved populations such as the unhoused.

Western is 100 percent wind-powered

Western's Bellingham campus now receives 100 percent of its energy from wind power from the new Skookumchuck Wind Facility as part of Puget Sound Energy's Green Direct program, which allows corporate and governmental customers to purchase 100 percent of their energy from a dedicated, local, renewable energy resource.



Energy from the wind farm, located on Weyerhaeuser timber land in Lewis and Thurston counties, enables Western to officially reduce its carbon footprint, as recognized by the state, by about a third, or approximately 11,000 tons.



Awake at all hours with Perseverance

Associate Professor of Planetary Science Melissa Rice is a member of the science team for NASA's Mars 2020 rover mission that landed on Mars Feb. 18. Since then, she and her students and other researchers at Western have spent many days and nights analyzing data delivered by the rover Perseverance and sending back instructions for the next day's tasks.

Catch up with Rice and her students at tinyurl.com/WWUMars

ENHANCING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

A new home for student creators

Western’s new Engineering & Design Makerspace is part collaboration space and part workshop where students can work on academic projects and pursue their own passions while building community with their peers.

“It’s more than just a space where people come to work on projects and make things,” said Assistant Professor Jill Davishahl, director of first-year engineering programs. “Building community is key to improving students’ sense of belonging, which is directly related to student success in STEM.”

Located in the Ross Engineering Technology building, the 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters and sewing machines are available to students regardless of their major, thanks in part to an \$80,000 grant from Western’s Student Technology Center. Kevin Hjelstrom, a 2021 plastics and composite engineering graduate from Las Vegas, worked with Student Technology Manager AJ Barse to secure the grant.

And a \$300,000, two-year grant from the National Science Foundation is supporting engineering education research and community-building efforts in the makerspace. Online modules, peer mentors and teaching



WWU’s Makerspace collaborators include Engineering’s Jill Davishahl, student Noah Crow, 2021 graduate Kevin Hjelstrom, and Student Technology Center Manager AJ Barse.

assistants help students learn how to use the equipment and build the kind of welcoming, inclusive atmosphere that encourages

students of all backgrounds to join the Engineering Department as well as make it their career.

WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	2018-19	2019-20	TARGET 2024-25
Tenure/Tenure-track Faculty			
Total Faculty	544	566	600-625
Percent Faculty of Color	18.0%	19.3%	18-23%
Students Graduating with High-Impact Experiences (Undergraduate research, global learning, community-based learning, internships, capstone courses and projects)	81%	85%	95%*
Research			
Research & Sponsored Programs Annual Revenue	\$12.0M	\$12.8M	\$15-20M
University Supported Research & Creative Activity	\$5.9M	\$7.0M	\$7-9M

*Other experiences, such as military service, may also count as equivalent.



Charlotta Abernathy, '21, was a force for creating more opportunities and resources for disability scholarship and access at Western. The politics/philosophy/economics major from Vancouver, Washington, served on the steering committee developing the disability studies minor and also worked in the Disability Access Center and the AS Disability Outreach Center to create educational materials related to disability positivity and ableism.

Expanding disability scholarship

Faculty, students and others who make up Western’s Disability Studies Steering Committee are planning to expand and enhance opportunities for students to engage in disability studies scholarship at Western.

The steering committee is working to establish a new Institute for Critical Disability Studies as well as an interdisciplinary disability studies minor, drawing upon existing courses from other departments and programs, including English, Global Humanities and Religions, Computer Science, Health and Human Development, and the physical sciences.

New courses have already begun to appear, including the Department of Global Humanities and Religions’ “Religion and Disability,” and two from the English Department: “Cultural Disability Studies” and “Disability and Literature.”

Eventually, the Institute for Critical Disability Studies would offer other additional educational and community-building programming such as events and community partnerships.

Western’s first clinical doctorates



Western’s first doctoral graduates received their diplomas in 2021. The five students with clinical doctorates in audiology, Au.D., were among the graduates honored during virtual commencement ceremonies in June.

Western’s first cohort in the clinical doctorate program began in fall 2017 and completed four years of coursework, clinical experience and a year-long externship. The degree prepares graduates to begin careers in audiology or continue with advanced study in a Ph.D. program. Western’s second doctoral cohort is expected to graduate in 2022.

New Fairhaven Dean is a WWU Alum

Christopher “Caskey” Russell, ’93, B.A. and ’96, M.A., English, is the new dean of Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies.



Russell comes from the University of Wyoming, where he directed Native American and Indigenous Studies and was assistant director of the School of Culture, Gender and Social Justice. He previously served as Wyoming’s director of Chicana/o Studies and as assistant chair of the English Department.

Russell, an enrolled member of the Tlingit Indian Tribe of Alaska, has a doctorate in English from the University of Oregon in addition to his degrees from Western.

He began at Western in mid-August.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT WESTERN FOUNDATION REPORT

As a first-generation college student and former high school teacher, and having built a career in public higher education, I genuinely appreciate the value of education. When the opportunity presented itself to apply to be the next president and CEO of the Western Washington University Foundation and VP of University Advancement, I considered how my career in philanthropy could add value to Western's excellent reputation as a leading liberal arts institution. As a native of the Pacific Northwest, I have always been impressed by Western's commitment to inclusive success for all students and a quote I read from President Randhawa galvanized my decision to pursue this opportunity:

"Western and higher education institutions across the country have a moral imperative to expand access to higher education, particularly for students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. But we have an added responsibility that goes beyond access; we need to ensure success is attainable for all students as well. Advancing access and success for all students is one of the most courageous and concrete ways to ensure equity, inclusion, and opportunity."

And as I spoke with the search committee, board members, and Western staff during the interview process, I knew Western was where I wanted to continue my career because of the philanthropic investment from alumni, community members, parents, corporations, businesses, private foundations, and friends of Western to help achieve the vision established by university leadership.

Following in the footsteps of Stephanie Bowers is a monumental task. Over two decades, she has overseen the significant growth of the Foundation's assets and endowment, helping to create countless opportunities for students to discover, develop, and excel. She has earned this well-deserved retirement, and I am grateful she will be close by to offer advice and insight as I

transition into this role.

Your generosity provided cash gifts in excess of \$10.1 million in the 2020-21 academic year. Our endowment continues to grow and show strong returns. On the following few pages, you will read about the exciting progress made in our first-ever capital campaign, learn about students and recent graduates whose Western careers were impacted in life-changing ways by private support, and see statistics from our most successful Give Day ever!

In my research during the interview process, I watched the December 2020 commencement video and paused at the statement, "The world can't wait. Let's change it." These words have never rung more true than they do today in a global pandemic. I sincerely thank you for all you continue to do to make college education a reality for so many and for helping to change lives. The impact you have is truly extraordinary.

I look forward to meeting you in person to share how your philanthropy leads to student success for future Western Washington University Vikings.

Kim O'Neill

*Vice President, University Advancement
President and CEO, Western Washington University Foundation*



WWU GIVEDAY

Western's sixth annual day of online giving generated unprecedented levels of support for Western students. This WWU Give Day was all about promise—a promise to our supporters and friends that each gift made will help students succeed, and a promise to our students that we will ensure their financial needs are met as they prepare to become the changemakers of tomorrow.

This year, a record number of donors gave a record number of dollars to Western on Give Day:

DOLLARS RAISED:

\$1 Million

28% INCREASE OVER 2020

NUMBER OF DONORS:

2,544

6% INCREASE OVER 2020

FIRST TIME DONORS: 677

9% INCREASE OVER 2020

DONORS INCLUDED THE LARGEST-EVER NUMBER OF:

**ALUMNI:
1,542
18% increase
over 2020**

**\$1,000+
DONORS: 92
40% increase
over 2020**

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND ENERGY STUDIES

Capital Campaign Update: A 'deep green' building for innovative technology

The Washington State Legislature included \$53 million in its 2021-23 biennium budget for the construction of a new computer science and electrical engineering facility, including a new building to be named Kaiser Borsari Hall on Western's south campus. Fred Kaiser and Grace Borsari's lead gift of \$10 million, combined with an additional \$5 million raised from alumni, community members, corporations and private foundations and the commitment from the state, all point toward Western breaking ground and beginning construction in the fall of 2022. Fundraising efforts will be on-going to encourage partnerships with an ever-widening range of philanthropists in support of the new building's carbon-neutral design.

In addition to providing much needed classroom and lab space for students and faculty in computer science, electrical and computer engineering and energy science and technology, the building will be the region's only carbon-neutral academic facility.

"This is going to be the greenest higher education building in the state of Washington," said Jason

McLennan, founder of the Living Building Challenge and the CEO of McLennan Designs. "In fact, it's going to be one of the greenest in the entire country. This facility is going to be a game-changer for the campus, for the community, for the region to show what is possible around climate, around high-performance design and around education."

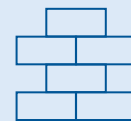
The "deep green" building will be a net-zero energy/zero carbon design and exceed LEED standards for energy use and carbon.

"It will have solar panels on the roof that generate all the energy of the building without any fossil fuel use. It will be an intelligent, smart building that will actually adapt to the outside conditions, maintaining great inside conditions," said McLennan. "This building will have no need for natural gas. It is a fully decarbonized electrified building that will be run by the sun."

Kaiser Borsari Hall, renovating and connecting the adjacent building, and the enhanced programs that will be housed inside are a direct response to the needs of Washington state industries and employers. These academic programs respond to the specialized needs of advanced technology industries in our region and fill a special niche in the continuum of STEM education infrastructure.

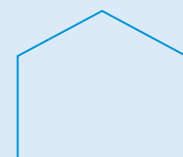


The new computer science, electrical engineering and energy studies facility will be "the greenest higher education building in the state of Washington."

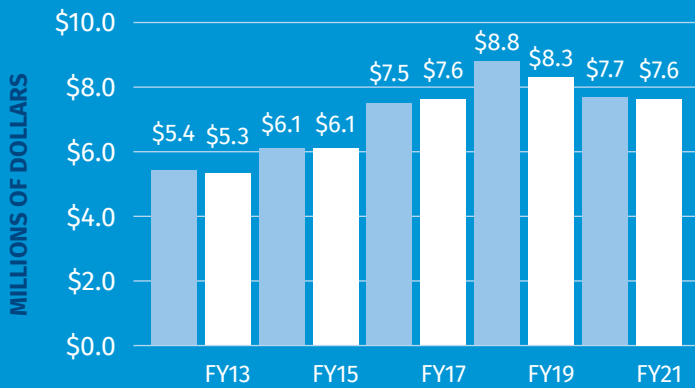


LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING THE BUILDING PROJECT:

Manca Valum
Senior Director of
Development,
Strategic Initiatives
manca.valum@wwu.edu
360-650-6542

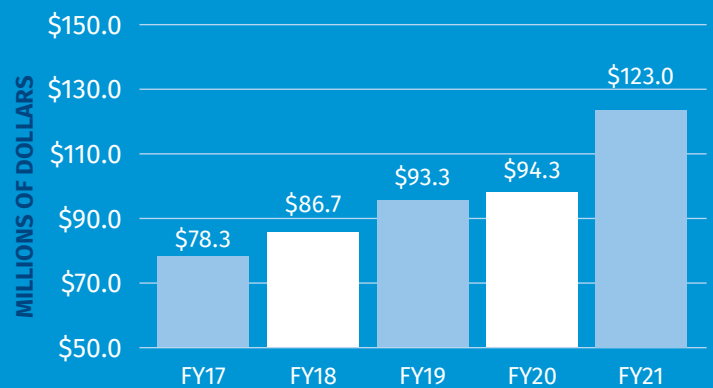


TOTAL VALUE OF GIFTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE UNIVERSITY



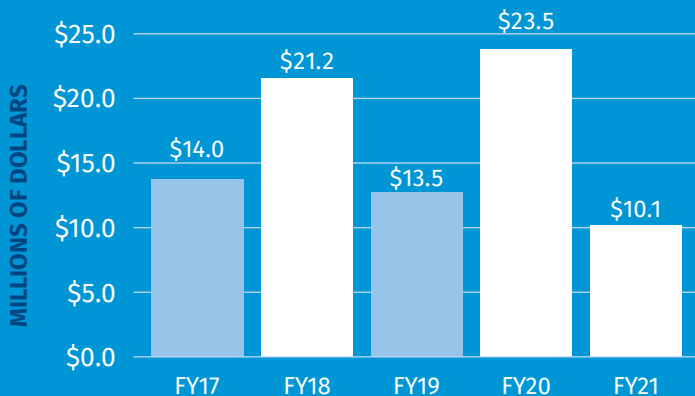
Over the past 10 years, the amount of support provided by the Foundation to the University has grown from just over \$5.0 million annually, to over \$7.6 million today.

TOTAL ENDOWMENT ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

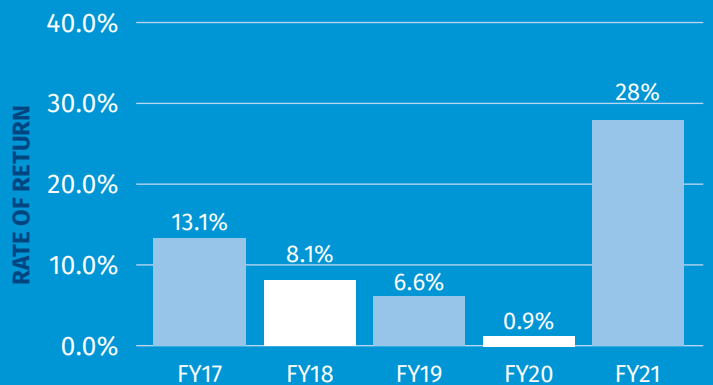


Total Endowment Assets Under Management includes assets owned directly by the Foundation, as well as endowed assets managed by the Foundation on behalf of the University.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WWU FOUNDATION BY FISCAL YEAR



ENDOWMENT FUND RETURNS



FIVE YEAR LOOK AT SCHOLARSHIPS AND DOLLARS AWARDED

Academic Year	# of Awards	Amount Paid
20-21	1787	\$2,939,887
19-20	1628	\$2,894,774
18-19	1566	\$2,869,089
17-18	1467	\$2,541,898
16-17	1344	\$2,466,337

STUDENT SUCCESS

Being a voice on campus: Sargun Handa

By her senior year of high school, Sargun Handa had been through enough to humble most of us: losing her closest friends to suicide, living as a queer student of color in a largely white, unaccepting community, suffering from severe chronic illnesses, handling the pressure of being a first-generation student, and so much more.

Instead of turning inward and retreating, Handa got to work. She learned that what pulled her out of dark spaces was volunteering, giving back, and creating space and support for students just like her.

She began speaking publicly about her struggles at 17, received acclaim for her TEDx talk on community involvement and mental health, “Be a Voice, Not an Echo” and spoke in front of 16,000 people at WE Day. Next she was invited to co-author a book, “20 Beautiful Women,” a collection of inspirational stories.

Despite her accomplishments in high school, Handa still didn’t think college was within reach. “I had a low GPA in high school because of everything I was going through,” she said. “College was unaffordable for my immigrant parents, who work in a gas station and spent all of their savings on my medical bills.”

Western was Handa’s first choice. “I called the Admissions Office and spoke to Freddy Collins.” Collins, ‘14, senior admissions counselor and multicultural outreach coordinator, opened the door to Western for Handa.

“Freddy nominated me for the Multicultural Achievement Program scholarship, which made Western possible for me.” As an Honors student, Handa finished her first year with a 4.0 GPA. She received many scholarships, including the Ethnic Student Center Academic Leadership scholarship, the Bowman Family Distinguished Scholars in Leadership, the Western Foundation Academic Excellence scholarship, and the Fred and Reba Mariz Scholarship.

“The Fred and Reba Mariz Scholarship helped me stay in Honors because I needed support to both participate as a leader in the Honors program and to maintain my academic standing.”

The Mariz Scholarship was established by retired WWU History Professor and Honors Program Director George Mariz, in honor of his parents.

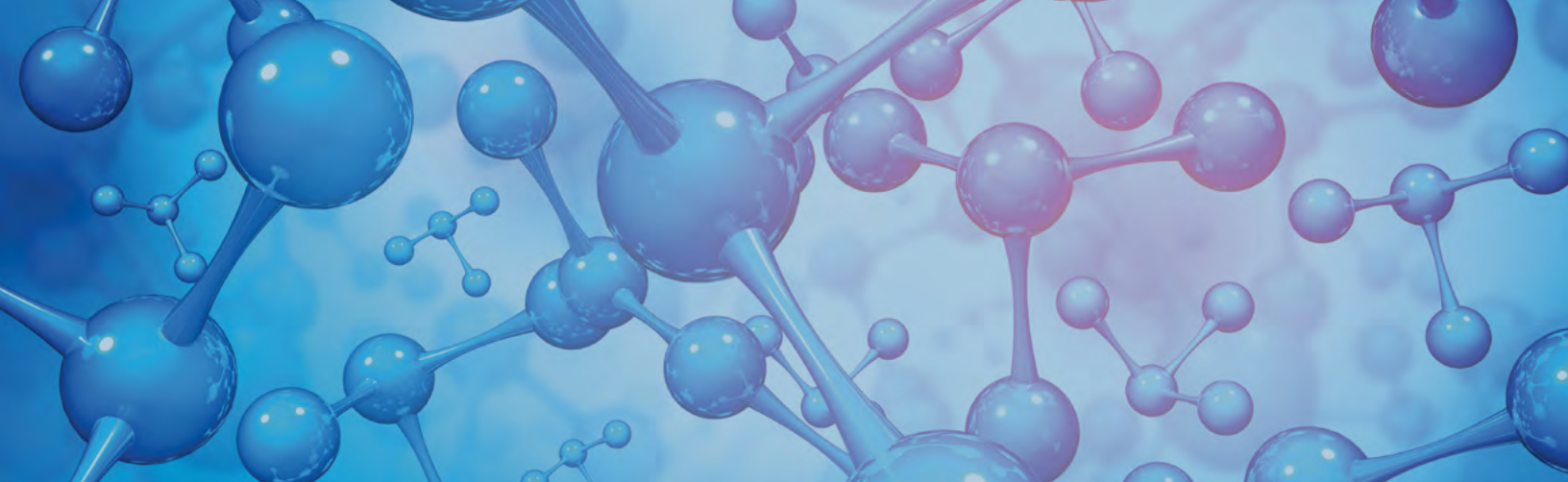
Now a junior majoring in psychology, Handa was the first woman of color elected president of the Student Senate and recruited the most diverse Student Senate in WWU history. She is also a lead student ambassador for the WWU Foundation,



In surviving difficult times, student Sargun Handa learned giving back to the community helps get her through.

and active with the Washington Student Association. Among her numerous scholarships is the Western Spirit scholarship awarded to students who embody Western’s values.

“The scholarships I’ve received gave me and my family the support we needed when we spent all our savings so I could survive,” Handa said. “However, I don’t just want to survive. I want to thrive to help other marginalized people like me also thrive.”



Putting proteins to work: Izzi Piper

A native of Issaquah, Izzi Piper, '21, came to Western because it was close to home, but not too close, and she planned to study kinesiology like her cousin, Elizabeth Forman, '16.

What Piper had not expected was falling in love with chemistry. "High school chemistry wasn't great, and I wasn't sure I'd like chemistry at Western."

But Piper happened upon a professor who changed her whole perspective: Spencer Berger, senior instructor in chemistry.

"She was great and made chemistry really exciting," Piper said. By the end of her first year, Piper switched majors.



LEARN MORE ABOUT SUPPORTING STUDENT RESEARCH:

Amber Asbjornsen
Interim Senior Director,
Major Giving
Amber.Asbjornsen@wwu.edu
360-650-3616

"I liked it because I could see a lot of real-world application of organic chemistry and biochemistry, and how studying chemistry could aid in issues surrounding human health and the environment." As part of her undergraduate experience, Piper spent a lot of her time in the lab doing research.

In the winter quarter of her sophomore year, Piper joined Associate Chemistry Professor John Antos's lab. "We were looking at specific enzymes called sortases, which can be used to modify proteins to give them useful properties."

Piper said she really grew through her research experience. "I didn't really know what I was getting into—research is open-ended, and the first six months I was on a big learning curve. By the time I graduated, I learned enough to design my own experiments for myself."

In order to fund her research, Piper felt fortunate to receive the Elwha Undergraduate Summer Research Award.

"The summer stipend let me focus on research full-time without having to work jobs to support myself or worry about grant funding. This support allowed me to finalize much of the data for a paper that was recently published online in the Journal of Biological Chemistry."



Izzi Piper discovered her love for chemistry at Western and dove into research.

For graduate school, Piper selected the University of California, Berkeley, sight-unseen, and moved there this summer. "I'm very excited to join their chemistry Ph.D. program," she said. "The research I did at Western got me into Berkeley."

Generous support for research can give students like Piper the time and focus they need to go out and change the world.

A LASTING LEGACY

Musical futures: The Lloyd Walworth Music Performance Scholarship Endowment

Lloyd Walworth, '69, grew up steeped in music. He sang in church choirs and played the baritone horn in his high school band. He followed his brother David, '68, to Western where both completed their degrees in music education, and after receiving a master's degree, Lloyd started his career as a K-8 music teacher.

When he moved his family to The Dalles, Oregon, Lloyd quickly became known as a highly respected musician, teacher, and generous community member. He founded and led a community choir and served as choir director for St. Paul's Episcopal Church for over 30 years. After retiring from teaching, he established the Walworth Music Foundation in The Dalles to support young music students. Lloyd was a fixture in his community who kept close ties with Western.

Knowing a planned gift is a seed sowed to create support for generations to come, Lloyd and his wife, Diane, worked with Western to establish a planned gift to create The Lloyd Walworth Music Performance Scholarship Endowment to support WWU music performance students. Lloyd "valued his education at Western and felt it provided a path



Lloyd Walworth, '69, was a highly respected music teacher in The Dalles, Oregon.

for a very rewarding and satisfying life and professional career and he wanted to give back to the university that he felt had given him so much," Diane said.

After a brief battle with cancer, Lloyd passed away in 2018, and Diane worked to fulfill his generous intentions. The Department of Music awarded the first Walworth Scholarship in 2019 and his fund will perpetually support students who

demonstrate musical performance excellence, to continue paying forward the work Lloyd started in 1969.

2021 Walworth Scholarship recipient Lucas Webster, '25, started at Western in the midst of the pandemic. As a percussionist, he was able to come into campus at intervals for studio time. "Those experiences, despite being masked and having to adjust our rehearsals, were some of the most fun memories I have of this past year

because despite everything we've gone through, we were still able to come together to make music and have a community," he recalled.

Webster's bright attitude and focus on community made him the perfect candidate to receive a piece of Walworth's legacy. "With the help of the Walworth Scholarship, I don't need to worry so much about the funds," he said. "I can focus fully on my academics, practice to my heart's content, and really push myself in school to be the best musician and teacher I can become."

Webster is working to complete his degree with a double major in music education and percussion performance. He hopes to be a high school teacher and continue his work as a professional musician. "If I had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Walworth, I would ask him about his musical journey and thank him for his generosity for providing another music student the chance to do what they love."

"A piece I would play for him is a marimba solo called 'Path' by Adam Tan. It is a piece I am slowly working towards being able to play, and to me the piece is like a tune you would hear when you think back on your journey through life. I think it would be a perfect piece to perform because Lloyd Walworth's generosity is helping me down my path in music."

Lloyd Walworth would be proud of Webster. His legacy is a gift that continues to provide for generations of young musicians.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CREATING A LASTING LEGACY AT WESTERN:

Matt Hammatt
Director of Planned Giving
matthew.hammatt@wwu.edu
360-650-2443



WWU student percussionist Lucas Webster is the 2021 recipient of the Walworth Scholarship.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019-20

In fiscal year (FY) 2020, the University's overall financial position decreased by \$13.8 million largely due to reduced auxiliary enterprise revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student head count average annual enrollment figures for academic year 2019-20 was 15,208 compared to 15,357 during the prior academic year.

Total operating expenses increased \$8.1 million in FY 2020 largely due to a \$7.2 million increase in scholarship and fellowship expenses. FY 2020 increases in salaries and benefits were offset

by a decrease in supplies as the University imposed strict purchasing and travel restrictions in response to COVID-19. Due to COVID-19, the Department of Education (ED) provided WWU with \$5.8 million in CARES funds to help students with increased, unanticipated expenses. WWU awarded \$4.7 million in CARES funds to students along with approximately \$2.0 million additional Washington College Grant (formerly the State Need Grant) funds. The remaining \$1.1 million will be disbursed during FY 2021.



**MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE
UNIVERSITY'S FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS AND RATING
REPORTS CAN BE FOUND AT:
www.edu/financials**



Joyce Lopes is Western's new VP for Business and Financial Affairs

Following a nationwide search, Joyce Lopes became Western's new Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs on July 1. She replaces Rich Van Den Hul, who retired after a decade of exemplary service.

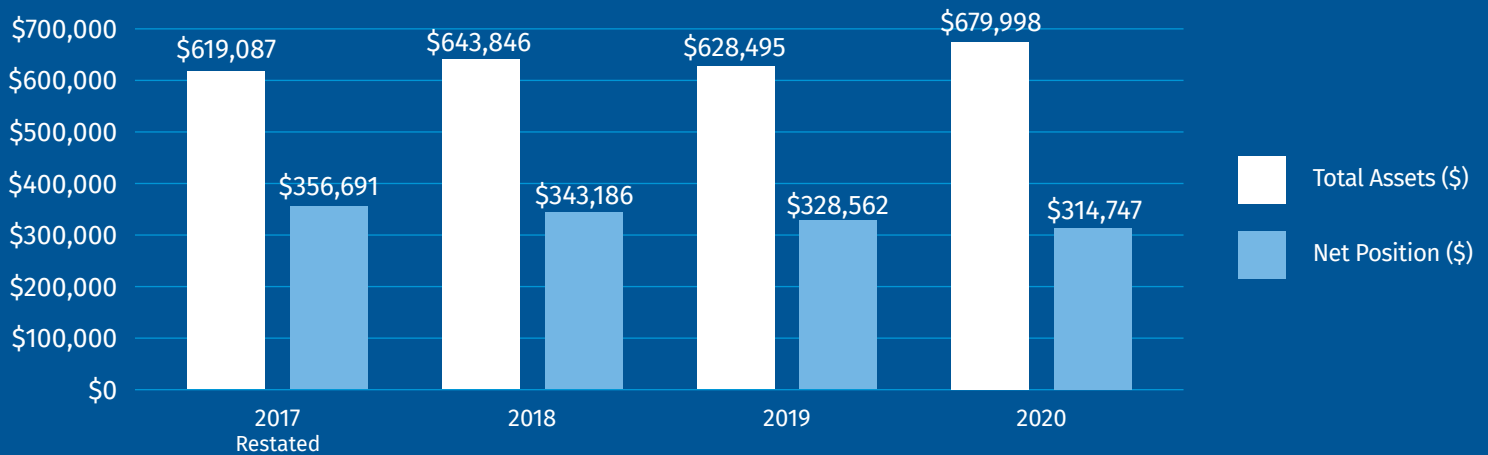
Before coming to Western, Lopes was vice president of Administrative Affairs at Sonoma State University in California's Sonoma Valley,

overseeing a \$200 million budget including human resources, budgeting, finance and accounting, facilities management, law enforcement, property management, athletics and culinary services.

Lopes was named 2018 North Bay CFO of the Year for positive impact to the local economy and community, for her work in affordable housing following the devastating Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County in 2017.

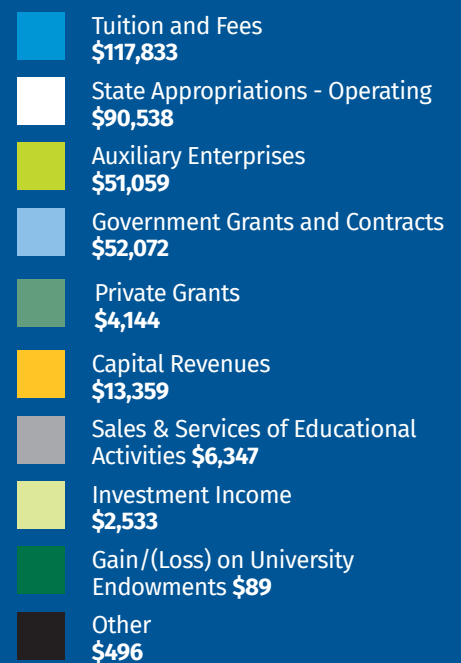
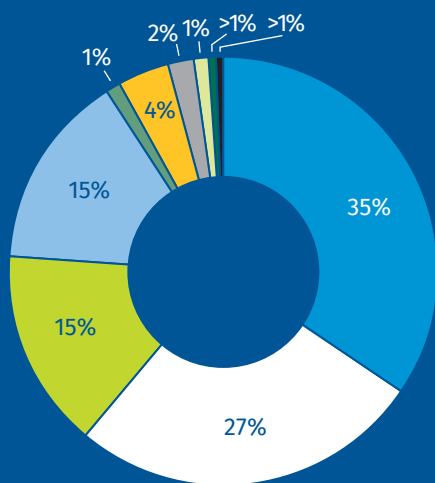
TOTAL ASSETS VS. NET POSITION

(\$ in thousands)



TOTAL REVENUES BY SOURCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

\$338,470 (in thousands)



TOTAL EXPENSES BY NATURAL CLASSIFICATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

\$352,287 (in thousands)

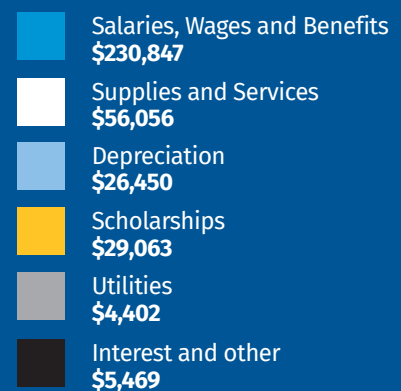
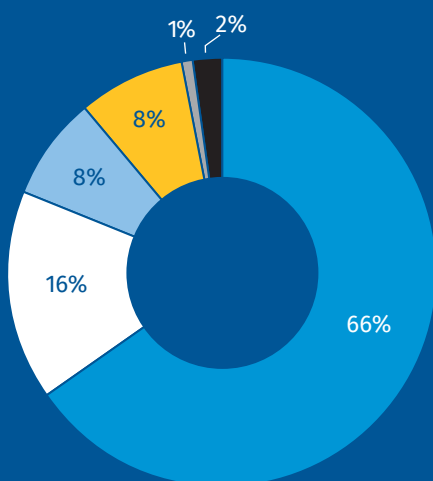




photo by Rhys Logan, '11

Western Washington University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and parenting status), disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status or genetic information in its programs or activities. Inquiries may be directed to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, Title IX and ADA Coordinator, WWU, Old Main 345, MS 9021, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225; 360.650.3307 (voice) or 711 (Washington Relay); crtc@wwu.edu. To request this document in an alternate format, please contact the President's Office at (360) 650-3480.

WWU.EDU



MAKE WAVES.