



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

## Budget Update

Board of Regents Meeting

*April 2025*

**GLYNDA BECKER FENTER**

*Vice President, External Affairs &  
Government Relations*



## OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE

- State's fiscal condition largely unchanged, but with bigger federal headwinds
- House/Senate operating budget proposals include \$11.8M- \$16.1M in biennial reductions for WSU
- Reductions to the Washington College Grant, authority for 5% FY27 tuition bump on the table
- House/Senate proposals reduce the state's share of compensation enhancements

### **NOT FUNDED IN HOUSE OR SENATE:**

- Academic Student Employee Contract
- Medical School Accreditation

### **FUNDED IN BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE:**

- Native Cougs Scholars Program



## CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE

- House/Senate proposals de-prioritize higher education in favor of affordable housing, environmental causes, behavioral health, and early learning
- Minor works budgets mostly funded in both proposals, especially for preservation

### **WSU Projects:**

- Demolition of Heald Hall and design of replacement funded in both budgets
- Spokane Team Health Education funded at \$37M in House
- Wenatchee plant growth facility funded in both proposals
- WADDL Puyallup design, Vancouver chiller both funded in one proposal each



# Federal Update – Administration & Agencies

## Agency Decisions Impacting WSU:

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- Energy-related research cut (*15% rate on F&A reimbursements*)

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- Working with stakeholders and Congressional offices to address paused grants

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- Any major changes **must** come from Congress

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- **Reorganization:** Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)
- **Workforce Reductions** (approx. 25%):

### OTHER AGENCY IMPACTS:

- **Student Visas**
  - Two students impacted by F-1 visa revocation
  - WSU International Programs supports **209 international scholars** and **1,201 international students**
- **Executive Orders**
  - A total of **116 executive orders** to date!



# Federal Update – Congress

## FY 2026 Federal Funding Process

### Earmarks and funding supporting WSU strategic projects moving forward for FY 2026

- Approved almost \$41 Million of requests for submittal in earmarks:
  - Hot Cell Construction; Aquaculture Program; Supporting Semiconductor Research; and V&E Program

### Continued request for funding for WSU strategic priorities:

**DOT:** Aviation Biofuels

**USDA:** Agriculture Research; Precision Agriculture; Resilient Livestock Initiative; Herbicide Resistance

**DOD Research:** Cyber Security; Advanced Materials; Reactive Materials supporting ISP/ARA partnership

**DOE:** Nuclear Sciences, Hydrogen; Grid Security

**Education:** PELL Grants; Trio Programs



# Federal Update – Congress

## FY 2026 Policy Agenda:

- Farm Bill Reauthorization
- Student Athletics, Name Image Likeness
- Medicare, Graduate Medical Education & Medicaid Impacts
- Changes to Federal Agencies – HHS (NIH, SAMSHA, CDC, HRSA); Education
- Immigration issues impacting WSU Students
- HRSA Title VII Reauthorization (Health Professions Workforce)