

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: WSU Everett Report

SUBMITTED BY: Matt McGinn, ASWSUE President

Hello everyone, my name is Matt McGinn, I am in my senior year of a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, and this year's ASWSUE Student Body President. I come from a long lineage of farmers, mechanics, Boeing plane builders, and truck drivers and after 20 years doing a variety of blue-collar jobs myself, I'm about to be the first to complete a degree through higher education. As a first-generation college student, I hope to provide a better future for me, my incredible wife, and set an example for our two amazing daughters that you're never too old to change your mind and pick a new path in life. Becoming part of the cougar family wasn't a question when I decided to go back to school, it was the only path I envisioned as I live less than a mile from our Everett campus, and I knew the path to go from Everett Community College to Washington State University through the "Direct Transfer Agreement".

My path to becoming the student body president was not so clearly defined but is related to how I often find myself in the position of advocating for those who don't know how to advocate for themselves, usually resulting in me standing side by side with individuals or groups of students and helping be the voice they haven't learned to have yet. Before I was the student body president, I spoke on behalf of the students and communicated to the WSU staff about issues that needed attention, our voices were heard, and change was implemented to things that had unfortunately been neglected during the pandemic. This was the beginning of our now recurring "student listening sessions" that are a collaboration between ASWSUE and our Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dr. Jacob Murray. Students have opportunity to bring thoughts or concerns to the staffs attention in a safe and discrete atmosphere where many of us learned that when it comes to academia, no feedback should be concerning feedback.

Since then, our campus has now brought more resources to our students such as access to counseling, attention on the mental health of themselves and their peers, guest lecturers that teach us how to appropriately address those in need or in crisis, creating a "buddy day" for new incoming students to be paired with senior students as a resource for questions, hosting the first "Fluke day" where Fluke Electronics will see students demonstrate their acquired skills in our exceptional labs and have the chance to network with these industry professionals. We're also strengthening our collaborative efforts with the nearby community colleges, an experience unique to the Everett campus that pioneered and inspired NREL to update their Collegiate Wind Competition guidelines, thus inspiring colleges throughout the country to follow our example. Our business program has grown 200% this year, and overall enrollment is recovering from the pandemic across the board. Our students will often say that the staff feel like their friends, our campus feels like home, and they get a strong sense of community they never anticipated they'd get from school. Not every campus can say that it's shaped by its students, but each of us Everett students can say we take part in shaping our campus and we are proud of it. Thank you all for your time today and go cougs!