



Previously Endorsed Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for your previous support for higher education. To be considered for Graduate Washington's endorsement this election cycle, please complete the following questionnaire by 9:00am on Monday, June 9th. Responses should be sent to board chair Logan Bahr at info@graduatewashington.org.

Since your most recent endorsement, what specific policies or programs have you supported to improve accessibility, affordability and academic quality for students of Washington's higher education institutions?

I have sponsored the following legislation to promote higher education:

- HB 1011 - Removing the one-year waiting period for veterans or active members of the military for purposes of eligibility for resident tuition
- HB 1043 – Limiting differential tuition
- HB 1109 - Requiring institutions of higher education that offer an early course registration period to provide early registration for eligible veterans and national guard members
- HB 1320 - Requiring an online higher education transfer and student advising system
- HB 1331 - Authorizing student advisory committees at institutions of higher education
- HB 1642 - Restricting tuition increases for resident undergraduate students at four-year institutions of higher education
- HB 1669 - Concerning self-supporting, fee-based programs at four-year institutions of higher education
- HB 1736 - Concerning higher education operating efficiencies
- HB 2285 - Requiring a review of institution of higher education policies related to dual credit coursework
- HB 2336 - Increasing transparency in higher education by requiring certain departmental budget detail to be available online
- HB 2443 - Requiring earnings and employment data for completers of higher education degrees, apprenticeships, and certificates awarded by institutions of higher education
- HB 2615 - Modifying the requirements for renewing state need grants
- HB 2619 - Creating the state need Pay it Forward program
- HB 2651 - Requiring creation of a higher education transparency web site
- HB 2661 - Creating the Washington research institute for teaching excellence
- HB 2694 - Creating an informational program to increase applications from high-achieving low-income students to selective institutions of higher education

In addition, as a member of elected caucus leadership I was able to help negotiate for the tuition freezes enacted in the 2013-15 biennial budget and the 2014-15 supplemental budget. Also, as Ranking Member of the House Education Committee, I've been able to move many bills that further college preparation and access in our K-12 public education system.

One item I'd like to highlight in particular is my work on HB 2443, which had 20 co-sponsors (13 Democrat and 7 Republican). Despite the fact that the Chair of the House Higher Education Committee wouldn't move the bill, I was still able to work with Sen. Hill and Rep. Hunter to incorporate most of the language as a budget proviso.

<http://houserepublicans.wa.gov/news/magendanz-provision-on-college-degree-earnings/>

Starting November 1st of this year, students, parents and policymakers will finally have the ability to research the potential future wages of different higher education degrees and certificates online.

How will you prioritize higher education funding in light of the Supreme Court's McCleary Decision?

Nationally, the rationale for increasing higher education attainment has become more widely understood, and most now agree that, as a nation, we desperately need more citizens with postsecondary credentials. Much of this awareness is driven by the realization that 65 percent of U.S. jobs — almost two-thirds — will require some form of postsecondary education by 2020.

So while not technically part of the definition of "basic education" that's addressed by the McCleary ruling, I believe that higher education will be necessary for future generations to be competitive in a 21st century workforce. Ultimately, we may add it to the definition, but for now it's easy to argue that higher education should be the next highest priority behind our paramount constitutional duty.

Personally, I support Sen. Hill's SB 5881 (Prioritizing state revenue growth for education) which requires that for the next decade that two-thirds of any expenditures of new revenue to the state general fund and related funds must be made for state education programs, including K-12 education, early learning programs, and higher education. While this is a broader definition than what's required for McCleary, it makes sense and reflects the priorities we've already established in the current biennial budget, which prioritized four-fifths of new revenue for education spending.

What do you think should be done to better manage the issue of rising student debt?

The next time anyone questions why public university tuition is rising faster than inflation, remember this: Twenty years ago, the state government paid 80 percent of the cost of a student's education and a student paid 20 percent. Today, the state pays 30 percent of the cost, and the student pays 70 percent. The state has systematically disinvested in our children's future, and I view this trend with disappointment and alarm.

Our goal should be to restore at least a 50/50 split between tuition and state funding by 2020, and to close the skills gap as we achieve this goal I believe we have to be more deliberate in how we fund institutions of higher learning. For example, when we point out that 70% of all new STEM jobs are in Computer Science, the University of Washington will point out that it costs \$10,000 more to graduation a CS major than the average...and so they hardly have an incentive to grow that program. As a result, they ask for differential tuition, but that provides a disincentive for students to pursue majors that are highest in need by the industry. Instead, I believe that we should be providing differential state funding (a.k.a. performance funding) that pays more for degrees that have the highest economic value to the state. Not surprisingly, these degrees also provide the highest wage growth potential for students, and represent the highest return on investment for all parties.

What is your stance on the Pay It Forward model of financing higher education?

I support Rep. Bergquist's version of the Pay it Forward bill (HB 2619), which leverages existing need grant program funding to achieve a much quicker and broader roll-out. This approach should also avoid cannibalizing efforts to restore a 50/50 split by 2020 through performance funding.