

Greetings:

Please oppose the drastic cuts to colleges and universities and unreasonably steep increases in tuition.

During these tough economic times students and their families need predictable tuition increases to best prepare financially for their educational endeavors. Increases of 30% over two years (due to compounding of increases) on resident undergraduate students in exchange for watering down of educational quality is not a prudent course of action during an economic downturn.

* Entering freshman will see a 40% increase in tuition through their college career

- **The increases in the Pell Grant and Hope Tax Credit were made to make college**

	2009-09	2009-10 (14% increase)	2010-11 (14% increase)	2011-12 (7% increase)	2012-13 (7% increase)	Increase for a 4-year degree
UW	\$6,250	\$7,125	\$8,123	\$8,692	\$9,300	\$8,240
WSU	\$6,720	\$7,661	\$8,734	\$9,345	\$9,999	\$8,859
CWU	\$4,841	\$5,519	\$6,292	\$6,732	\$7,203	\$6,382
EWU	\$4,215	\$4,805	\$5,475	\$5,858	\$6,268	\$5,546
TESC	\$4,797	\$5,469	\$6,235	\$6,671	\$7,138	\$6,325
WWU	\$4,290	\$4,891	\$5,576	\$5,966	\$6,384	\$5,657

more affordable for student and families, not more affordable for the state. Tax credits are temporary while tuition increases are permanent.

- **Even funds appropriated directly to Washington State in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund for education, as part of the federal stimulus bill, requires that funds used for higher education general expenditures shall, “mitigate the need to raise tuition and fees for in-State students.”ⁱ**
- The proposed tuition increase and budget cuts will keep students in school longer with greater debt and reduced educational quality and at the same time lock students out of higher education.
- The median family income increase in Washington State is only 2.93% annually, when adjusted for inflation – this is barely a quarter of the WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) states and barely two-thirds of the national average.
- For the last several decades, tuition has increased at an average rate of 7% each year – more than twice the rate of inflation or median family income. In the same time period students have seen state support per student recede from 75% of the cost of instruction now less than 40%.ⁱⁱ
- In this economic crisis students and their families face reductions in income on several

fronts: an increasing unemployment rate, cuts in hours by employers, lower numbers of student jobs available – especially summer work for students.

- Students and families will face greater amounts of debt to pay for a college education – the current average loan is \$7,000 each year.ⁱⁱⁱ An entering freshman borrower would likely graduate with \$28,000 if they were to get out in four years.

ⁱ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, SEC. 14004(a)

ⁱⁱ Higher Education Coordinating Board, *Key facts about higher education in Washington*. 2008

ⁱⁱⁱ John Klacik, “Higher Education Financial Aid.” PowerPoint presentation. House Higher Education Committee, Olympia, WA. 16 Jan 2009.