

Alternatives Available for Students Losing Pell Grants

Contact Person: Jennifer Dorr, Executive Director, (360) 650-7984, jennifer.dorr@wwu.edu

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BELLINGHAM - Washington Campus Compact (WACC) will distribute \$2.7 million in education scholarships each year over the next three years to students who commit to volunteering.

The Students in Service scholarships can be used to pay for tuition or for student loans and can help students who will be affected by the change in the Pell Grant Program. For students who may be affected, there are still numerous education scholarships available through the Students in Service program. Students can learn more, and sign up for the program, by visiting www.studentsinservice.org In addition, Students in Service scholarships are available to all students at participating WACC member schools.

The recent federal spending bill passed by Congress makes it possible that 90,000 students will be cut from the Pell Grant program nationwide, and grants will be reduced for more than 1 million students, according to the American Council on Education. The change in the eligibility language for Pell Grants means that thousands of Washington State higher education students will lose their grants.

"As thousands of students in Washington state inevitably lose their Pell Grants next year and as tuition continues to rise, higher education becomes even more difficult to access, especially for those students with financial need" said Jennifer Dorr, Washington Campus Compact executive director, "The Students in Service education scholarships can help higher education students meet these growing financial needs while also encouraging them to get involved in their communities."

According to a recent report by the College Board, “students are facing tuitions that are 10.5 percent higher at four-year public institutions this year.” Across the state at community colleges and private institutions alike, tuition costs are rising rapidly and college students are struggling to find funding to support their education.

Established in 1992, and hosted at Western Washington University, Washington Campus Compact is a higher education presidential membership organization with 25 members in Washington state committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active, engaged leaders in their communities, furthering the civic and public purposes of higher education and strengthening communities. WACC is an affiliate state office of Campus Compact, a national organization comprised of more than 900 higher education institutions committed to the civic and public purposes of higher education.

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