



**Washington
Campus Compact**

**Washington Campus Compact Receives AmeriCorps Grant
Statewide 'Retention Project' to Serve Struggling Students**

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BELLINGHAM – The Washington State Commission for National and Community Service has awarded a \$252,000 AmeriCorps grant to Washington Campus Compact, based at Western Washington University.

The grant will support the “Retention Project” program at higher education campuses in Washington.

The “Retention Project” will improve academic achievement, increase attendance rates and encourage interest in participating in postsecondary education for disadvantaged high schools students and support the development of their civic engagement skills, behaviors and attitudes.

“The ‘Retention Project’ will engage over 1,600 college students as mentors for struggling high school students over the next three years,” said WACC Executive Director Jennifer Dorr. “We intend to partner with as many as 15 colleges and universities to help struggling students achieve success in the classroom across the state.”

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The Washington State Commission for National and Community Service seeks to expand the ethic of service by inviting citizens of all ages and backgrounds to contribute their time and talents to strengthen and build healthy communities.

"This program gives Washington colleges and universities a unique opportunity to get involved in their communities," said Gov. Chris Gregoire. "During the last legislative session we provided money for individualized support for students who are struggling to meet academic standards, such as summer school, after school and Saturday classes, tutoring and alternative testing opportunities. Mentors can also play an important

role and I hope these high school students learn about opportunities to continue their education.”

Established in 1992 and hosted at Western Washington University, Washington Campus Compact and its membership of 29 two- and four-year colleges and universities are 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. Washington Campus Compact is an affiliate state office of Campus Compact, a national organization comprised of more than 950 higher education institutions committed to the civic and public purposes of higher education.