**WWU and AASCU TOP POLICY PRIORITIES**

**Affordability**

- **Support** increased grant funding for the neediest students and advocate for policies that promote better management of educational debt for student loan borrowers.
  - Continue and grow current levels of Pell Grant funding
  - Return year-round Pell Grants
  - Open Pell Grants to low-income students who earn college credits while still enrolled in high school

- **Advocate** for college affordability and mitigate tuition increases through adequate state investment in public higher education.

- **Promote** policies that align federal and state practices in support of greater affordability and improved access.

- **Encourage** and promote AASCU’s proposed federal matching program and other strategies for leveraging federal resources to incentivize state higher education funding.

- **Support** proposals that promote state-federal affordability partnerships by providing federal incentives for increased state funding of operating costs at public colleges and universities.

**Accountability**

- **Support** effective accountability requirements to safeguard taxpayers’ investment in higher education.

- **Reform** the current regulatory framework for student aid by eliminating ineffective regulations and replacing them with substantive and evidence-based oversight.

- **Promote** better, more actionable consumer information, as well as better analytics on institutional performance for oversight and management purposes.

- **Promote** completion and graduation that support reasonable access and academic quality.
Preserve and strengthen the American tradition of political non-interference in academic judgments about programmatic quality.

Support the collection of the student data needed by the federal government for purposes specifically authorized by law.

Combat Campus Sexual Assault

Support policies and programs emphasizing a renewed and sustained commitment to student safety and prevention of campus sexual violence.

Encourage state and system officials to review and update state laws and campus procedures related to sexual violence, and ensure fair and equitable proceedings.

Call on the U.S. Department of Education and Congress to consult with institutions of higher education in devising policies against sexual violence on campus.

Ensure that federal legislation pertaining to campus disciplinary processes maintains a standard that is fair and equitable to all parties.

Ensure Access and Diversity

Recognize and meet the specific needs of unique populations, including military students and veterans, minorities, marginalized, undocumented students, students with disabilities and international students.

Enhance all facets of international education, including expanded study abroad opportunities for domestic students, enrollment of international students in the U.S., and international partnerships.

Support institutional policies that promote diversity, and actively welcome and support under-represented students.

Oppose state legislation that seeks to strip institutional and/or system authority to regulate concealed weapons on campus.
Academic Success and Quality

- **Support** current levels of funding for NSF and NIH research and development.
- **Oppose** proposed legislation to reduce or eliminate K-12 college readiness programs.

Enhancement of our Communities

- Protect funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).
  - National service programs such as AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA have contributed greatly to communities across our nation.
  - These programs offer a cost-effective way to build and sustain important community partnerships that tackle critical community issues, educate students for civic and social responsibility, and prepare students for the workforce.
  - A study by economists at Columbia University demonstrated that for every $1.00 invested in national service, there is a $3.95 return to society in the forms of higher earnings, increased output, and other community-wide benefits.