

Washington Student Association Student of Color Summit (SOCS)
Rapid Resource Fund Proposal

Organization: Washington Student Association (WSA)
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Student of Color Summit
Date: April 1 - 2, 2017
Location: Central Washington University
Website: WAstudents.org

The Washington Student Association is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization representing the students of all 4-year public universities in Washington State. Our grassroots and legislative advocacy are aimed at improving the accessibility, quality, and affordability of our higher education system for all students. We focus our legislative agenda and on campus advocacy on issues such as reducing the cost of attendance, expanding state-funded financial aid programs - such as the State Need Grant - and improving on-campus resources for preventing and reporting cases of sexual assault. The WSA does have statewide partners, coalitions, and workgroups that we are members of, but the Student of Color Summit will be hosted solely by the WSA and student staff from Central Washington University.

WSA Board of Directors & Associated Students

University of Washington

- Seattle
- Tacoma
- Bothell

Washington State University Regional Campuses

- Pullman
- Spokane
- Vancouver
- Tri-Cities

The Evergreen State College

- Western Bellevue College
- Eastern
- Central

By working directly with students at each of our member campuses we are able to represent students from all across the state and have constituents in most legislative districts. Each campus brings its own diversity of students and issues to our statewide organization which expands our constituency and representation. February 7th will be the first time that the WSA will work in collaboration with the Road Map Project and Community Center for Education Results on a statewide advocacy day to fully fund the State Need Grant.

Project Description

The Washington Student Association will host its 2nd annual Student of Color Summit on April 2nd and April 3rd. The summit will bring 300 students from all our member campuses (graduate and undergraduates), along with local high school students to Central Washington University to share their own stories as students of color on university campuses. Students discuss trying to enter the higher education system in Washington and navigating four years in a new academic environment. The core of the program consists of largely student-taught workshops on a number of issues that affect communities of color, honing in on the impact they have on the educational system's treatment and development of students of color. Together with caucus spaces that allow students to engage in a community dialogue with peers from across the state, students will be able to take the lessons learned in workshops and apply them directly within their community as they formulate solutions to the most pressing issues facing students of color and their communities.

Though our organization is centered on advocating on behalf of university students, we recognize that creating a more affordable university system and building a successful pipeline for future students will require a broad coalition of organizations and individuals working to improve Washington's education

system. We invite organizations, coalitions, and individuals working on racial equity issues and education advocacy throughout the K-14 system to submit their own workshop proposals. We are also inviting students from local high schools in Yakima and Ellensburg to join us as delegates to the conference. Many conversations about race and navigating our education system as students of color do not happen in high school classrooms. We want to give students the opportunity to interact with university students and learn to have these conversations in their communities. We also want to reassure these high school students that they have advocates and mentors on their university campuses there to help them when they arrive at a university campus.

Goals for the Conference

At the conclusion of our conference, we hope students have had the opportunity to share their own experience as a student of color and build relationships with other student organizers. Our keynote speaker, workshops, and breakouts will give students the tools and resources to become agents of change at their respective campuses and in their larger community. A space such as the Student of Color will allow for an honest dialogue about the conditions of higher education from the perspective of students of color. We also have a goal that students will leave feeling empowered and encouraged to join on campus clubs or organizations dedicated to building leaders working on racial equity and higher education advocacy.

As an individual organization, we commit to advancing and advocating for policies in support of all marginalized students, including but not limited to students of color, women, LGBTQIA+ students, undocumented and differently-abled students. This year our racial equity legislative items consist of working on post-secondary education for inmates, expansion of the REAL Hope Act, and fully funding the State Need Grant - all of which disproportionately impact students of color and communities they come from. Recipients of the State Need Grant are largely low-income and come from disadvantaged communities. Further, as undocumented students grow in Washington the number of qualified students for the grant is increasing each year while funding remains inadequate.

While we are we dedicate our work to ensure the needs of all students are met, we also recognize that the voices of marginalized communities across the state need to be heard and directing our work. Therefore, our goals are to expand of legislative advocacy to include items that are focused on racial equity and advocacy for marginalized communities in higher education. We aim at increasing participation of students of color on our Board of Directors and increasing our profile to represent all students and their collective interests.

Similar to the Road Map Goal Project, our mission is to see students succeed from early education until college graduation. Our vision for the future needs to involve the voice of all stakeholders; students, faculty, parents, decision makers, and the larger Washington State community. All contribute to our public education system and should therefore have a voice in the future of public education. We also acknowledge that there are great disparities in who is qualified to attend college and who ultimately attends institutions of higher education. Much of the inequality that exists in our universities stems from inequities in the K-12 system and the community college system. The WSA, therefore, treats education and funding for education as a spectrum. Public schools must be fully funded and provide equitable resources for every student to ensure success. Students of color and other marginalized communities must be at the center of these conversations and at the center of solutions offered. We hope that the Student of Color Summit is able to give students the platform and space to build community and empower themselves to take action locally and at the statewide level and we hope to expand our partnerships to other organizations dedicated to this work.

Challenges to Implementation

- Our expected attendance and outreach is 300 students from 12 university campuses and local high schools. Outreach and publicity to attendees will be difficult to consolidate
- Securing funding for event space and food by Central Washington University deadline
- Campuses have not sent big delegations
- High school student outreach is new for this program so we will need to find on campus coordinators to bring those students to Ellensburg
- We will also need to ensure that workshop presenters are able to travel safely to the conference

Timeline

January	February	March	April
Funding Requests CWU Consultation and Room Rentals Set hotel blocks Local sponsorships Council of President's funding request	Delegation Applications Workshop Applications Campuses delegations selected Book keynote flight and hotel	Workshops presenters confirmed Program booklet finalized printed Delegation webinar and presenter training material sent Food ordered Campuses set travel to Ellensburg	SOCS begins April 2

	Estimated Low Cost	Estimated High Cost
Keynote honorarium, travel, and accommodations	\$2500	\$2800
Food 300 students @\$39 2 breakfast, 2 lunches - March 14th	\$12,000 @\$39 per attendee	\$14,400 @\$48 per attendee
Supplies (poster board, markers, tape)	\$400	\$500
Equipment Rentals for Rooms mid-February deadline	\$500	\$500
Social Event Rentals (ballroom, audio and lights)	\$350	\$550
Travel and accommodations for WSA Staff	\$960	\$1200
Publicity	\$300	\$450
Printed Conference Programs	\$400	\$600
Lanyard and Name Tags \$1.25/each	\$375	\$375

Total Cost	Low: \$20,285	\$23,875
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