



College & Work Ready:

*A World-Class Education
System for Washington State*

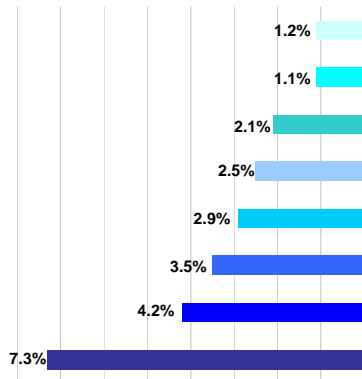
Business and labor leadership supporting key priorities for a world-class education system for the 21st century economy:

Association of Washington Business
Partnership for Learning
Prosperity Partnership
Technology Alliance
Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association
Washington Roundtable
Washington State Labor Council
WSA

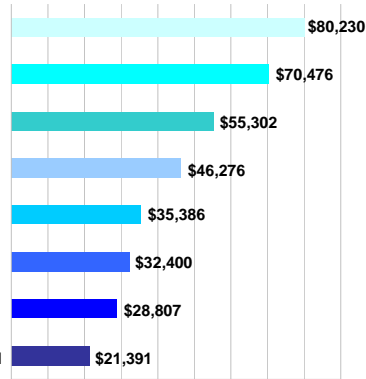


...and many others across the state

Unemployment Rate in 2001



Median Earnings, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Prosperity Partnership

1. Strengthen the quality of **early learning** programs
2. Improve **K-12 math and science** education and alignment
3. Increase **bachelor's degree capacity** in high-demand fields
4. Enhance state support for public university **research and graduate education**

Early learning should provide children with a strong foundation for success in school:

- Number of child care centers in Washington: **2,107**
- Percentage of centers with national accreditation: **6%**
- Percentage of Washington's incoming students reported to be **not** adequately prepared for kindergarten in 2004: **56%**
- Economic return for each dollar invested in early learning: **\$4 – \$17**

Source: Thrive by Five Washington, WA Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

Business Priority: Strengthen the quality of early learning programs

- Develop school readiness indicators
- Strengthen regulatory oversight and implement a uniform rating system to evaluate program quality
- Increase access to training opportunities for providers through college-based programs



Math and science are the keys to success in higher education and beyond:

- **76% of students/71% of adults** say what they learn in math and science is very/fairly **important to life after high school**
- **83% of students/84% of adults** recognize it is very/fairly **important to take advanced math and science classes**
- In 2005, **36%** of WA 8th graders demonstrated **proficiency in math**, and **33% in science**, on national assessments
- Washington's high school graduation requirements: **2 years of math** and **2 years of science**

Source: Educational Testing Service, U.S. Department of Education, WA Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

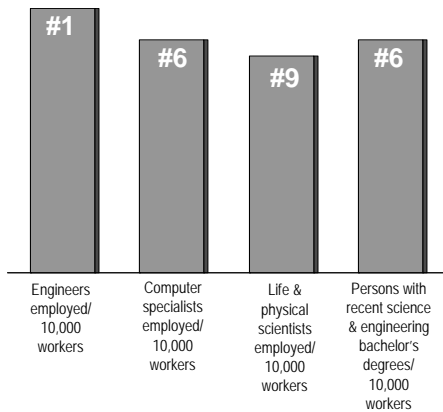
Business Priority: Improve math & science education and alignment

- Increase high school graduation requirements to 4 years of math, including completion of Algebra II
- Approve a limited number of state math curricula, including professional development
- Make the Washington Math Placement Test available to 11th grade students as a tool to assess progress
- Expand Washington State LASER to bring inquiry-based science curriculum and professional development to more schools
- Improve teacher credentialing in math and science and reduce out-of-field placements

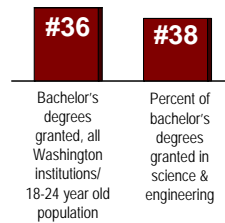


3. Bachelor's Degree Production

Washington is a leading consumer of science/engineering bachelor's degrees...



...but not a leading producer

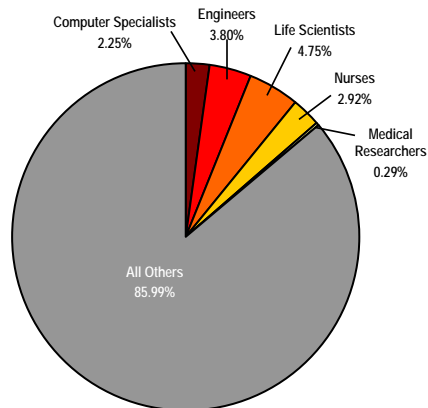
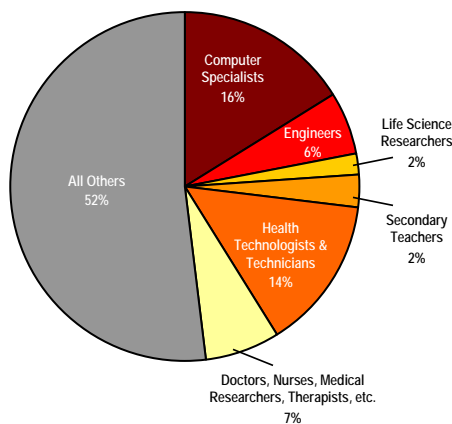


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

3. Bachelor's Degree Production

Washington Job Openings, 2007-2012

Source: WA State Employment Security Department



Washington 4-Year Degree Production

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, WA Higher Education Coordinating Board

3. Bachelor's Degree Production

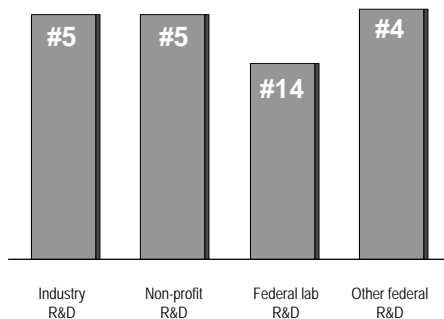
Business Priority: Increase capacity in high-demand bachelor's degree programs

- Fill existing physical capacity in high-demand fields for 2007-2009 biennium
- Expand capacity to produce 8,000 new degrees by 2010
- Increase to 10,000 degrees by 2020
- Study capital needs beyond current capacity and implement a public awareness campaign to inform students, parents and educators of opportunities in high-demand fields

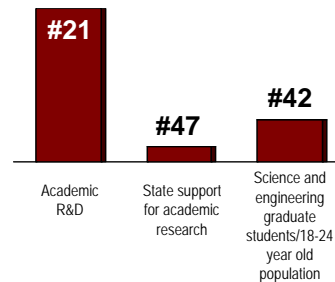


4. Research & Graduate Education

Washington is a center of world-class research...



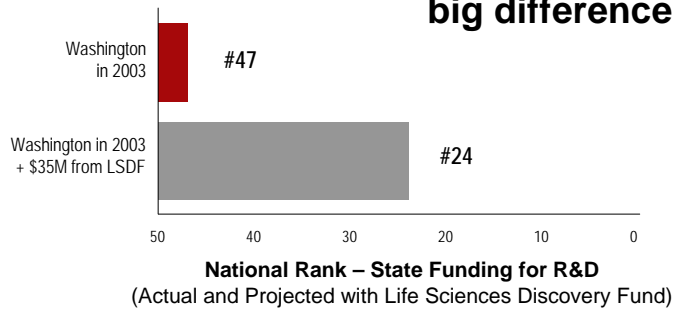
...but we need to be more competitive on the academic side



Source: National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Commerce

A relatively modest state investment...

...can make a relatively big difference



Source: National Science Foundation, Technology Alliance

Business Priority: Enhance support for public university research and graduate education

- Preserve the commitment of public funds to the Life Sciences Discovery Fund
- Target additional investments to increase commercialization of academic research and attract leading scientists to our public universities
- Strengthen graduate education programs in science and engineering



Leadership and advocacy with a unified voice in support of the 4 education priorities

- **Business/Community Outreach:**
 - Speaking tour targeting business and community leaders across the state
 - Public information campaign, through PSA's, web site, and materials for parents, students and educators
- **Legislative Outreach:**
 - Coordinated effort to educate state policy makers and advocate for prioritizing state investments to align with the College & Work Ready Agenda



Questions?

Get involved! Please visit the coalition's web site at
www.collegeworkready.org