

Monthly Newsletter



August 2024



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH JAY INSLEE AT VOTE SUMMIT

Here's what has happened in August for the WSA!

Hello and welcome to the second edition of the Washington Student Association newsletter!

We were excited to work with the Washington Bus and Fuse Washington this month on our Vote Summit.

Coming up, we are very excited to host our annual Fall General Assembly which will be held on October 19th and 20th at Central Washington University.

Our Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Isela, has now opened up our legislative proposal submission form ahead of Fall General Assembly.

Our Vice President of Graduate & Professional Student Affairs, Pal, will be hosting his first meeting to discuss graduate and professional student issues. Keep reading for more information and how to RSVP!

Finally, our Community and Technical College (CTC) Liaison Internship application is still available on our website until October 1st.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

Sienna Farrard

VP of Communications

In this newsletter you can expect:

2024 CTC Liaison Testimony

Legislative Proposal Submission

CTC Liaison Applications

Graduate & Professional Student Meeting

Fall General Assembly

Vote Summit Recap

2024 CTC Liaison Internship Testimony

I had the amazing opportunity to ask our two students who participated in the CTC Legislative Liaison Internship during the 2024 session. Read their answers to the questions below to learn more about their experience working for the WSA!

Kyra Sung- South Pudget Sound Community College

Q: What was the best part about being a liaison?

A: There were many great parts to being a liaison. It's difficult to pick the best! I'd have to say my favorite part had to have been the impressive people from diverse backgrounds that I got to meet and connect with. A close second contender would be the amount of valuable knowledge I learned about the legislative system of our state.

Q: What advice would you give to the next person in your position?

A: As a liaison from a non-member campus, I'd advise you to bring back all the knowledge and opportunities you have to your school and work through the process of membership sooner than later if that's something your campus would be interested in.

A more general word of advice is this is a learning experience. You should start by understanding the value of the work you are going to be doing and realizing that you need to take good care of yourself throughout the session to honor that value. Prioritize your tasks by urgency, understand what opportunities you should/shouldn't take, don't procrastinate, and most of all enjoy your time as a liaison!

Q: Why do you think a student should apply?

A student should apply because they are motivated to create change in higher ed. You'll learn a lot regarding the legislative system, create lots of memories with the amazing people you meet, and gain connections/opportunities that may support you in your career.

Q: What was the biggest or best thing you learned from the job?

A: I learned that politics/policy isn't really something to fear. It's a lot more tangible to create a sense of change than people typically imagine. A collective effort is what drives us to success, so keep differences aside and work as a team. One thing I learned that I'll take with me in the future is that I need to care of myself first, so I can best succeed in my job and care for the students I can support now and in the future.

Q: What bill are you most proud of being apart of/lobbying for?

A: I'm proud to have been apart of supporting all the initiatives our team worked to pass. The most proud of SB 5904 which matches the duration a student recipient can receive state financial aid to the 6 years of federal financial aid.

Kaitlynn Albenesius- Pierce College

Q: What was the best part about being a liaison?

A: The best part was probably getting to be up front and center about advocacy and getting to learn about public policy and its impact.

Q: What advice would you give to the next person in your position?

A: Find your people. It's a struggle but if you find the right people getting information and understanding is so much easier.

Q: Why do you think a student should apply?

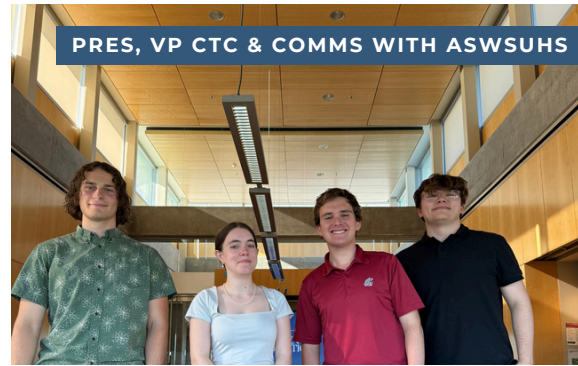
A: Students should apply because as much of a learning curve as it is, it poses as a way for students to help others on a major level.

Q: What was the biggest or best thing you learned from the job?

A: The people are EVERYTHING. That's why we exist is to exemplify that.

Q: What bill are you most proud of being apart of/lobbying for?

A: I am most proud of House Bill 2112, put forward by Representative Greg Nance and written by Mari Leavitt. It passed by the way. We were all thrilled!



Fall 2024 Legislative Proposal Submission

The legislative proposal application is now open for submission!

Students from our member and non-member campuses may now submit proposals to be reviewed and given a due-pass or no-pass by our Legislative Committee at Fall General Assembly for our WSA Legislative Agenda.

Every Spring General Assembly we start drafting next session's legislative agenda and at Fall General assembly, we approve our final agenda

which our liaisons and member campuses lobby for when they're in Olympia.

Students interested in submitting should think of an issue affecting students on their campus, a possible solution, and any context surrounding the idea. Has the WSA supported similar legislation? Are we reviving a bill that died? Who or what are the previous sponsors, concerns, advocacy

Submissions due by October 11th.



CTC Legislative Liaison Application

Are you a CTC student passionate about advocacy?

Apply for our CTC Legislative Liaison internship for the 2025 legislative session!

Learn about policy development, lobbying, and advocate for your student body alongside our member campus liaisons.

Apply now on our [website](#), applications due October 1st!

Graduate & Professional Student Meeting

Our Vice President of Graduate & Professional Student Affairs, Pal, will be hosting the first meeting to discuss issues affecting graduate and professional students.

The meeting will be held on September 19th at 11am PDT, RSVP to receive the Zoom link here <http://forms.gle/uJzcvF7vmYNH3H6N8>

Fall General Assembly

Our Fall General Assembly will be held at Central Washington University on October 19th and 20th . RSVP below!

<https://forms.gle/rvCxonFjCx4jHjst8>



Vote Summit 2024

Vote Summit 2024 was a huge success with students coming from over 13 different schools, public and private, from across Washington.

Our Saturday started with an info session about the Washington Student Association, the Washington Bus and Fuse Washington. This was followed by a session on the importance of voting in the upcoming election and the work we can do as students to get out the vote!

Jay Inslee then came and spoke to students about initiative 2117 coming up on the ballot. Initiative 2117 "would repeal the 2021 Washington Climate Commitment Act (CCA), a state law that provided for a cap and invest program designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 95% by 2050." (Ballotpedia). This initiative is related to higher education because, based on past solutions for budget deficits, higher ed funding is the first to be cut.

This initiative along with initiative 2109 will create a multi-billion dollar cut in the state budget.

This conference also provided students with an opportunity to discuss voter engagement on their own campus between student leaders, Fuse Fellows, and Washington Bus Fellows.

Overall, we were able to engage in productive dialogue and share ideas between campuses for our upcoming efforts to get students registered to vote and pledge to vote!

Information about voter registration can be found on the Secretary of State's website.

Don't forget to update your address, signature, and turn in your ballot on November 5th!

Thank you for reading!

Washington Student Association

wastudents.org

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