

Monthly Newsletter



September 2024



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

This month, our team had a lot of great opportunities after wrapping up Vote Summit on September 1st!

The following week, myself and the Vice President of Community & Technical College Student Affairs got to present a "Lobbying 101" presentation for CTC students attending the annual Council of Unions & Student Programs (CUSP) Leadership Conference.

Then, that weekend, our Executive Committee and Board of Directors was welcomed to Olympia to attend the annual retreat!

In September, we were also hard at work planning our annual Fall General Assembly and hosting the first Board of Directors meeting of the year.

Our Legislative Proposal Submission and Fall General Assembly RSVP are due on October 11th with our CTC Liaison Internship application closing shortly after on October 15th. Don't forget to share and submit!

Enjoy this month's newsletter and see you at Fall GA!

Sienna Jarrard

VP of Communications

In this newsletter you can expect:

Exec & BoD
Retreat Recap

CTC Liaison
Internship App.

Meet your BoD
Chair

Meet your BoD-
Part One

Letter from the
President



Executive Committee and Board of Directors Retreat

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors held their annual retreat in Olympia in early September. We reviewed the WSA Bylaws, Constitution and 10-Year Plan to think about how we envision the association going forward.

We had a wonderful time hearing from our alumni over breakfast, thank you to those attended and share their experiences as former students in the WSA.

Presidents and Executive Committee members learned more about our strategic partners, what the WSA does during session, how they can support their campuses liaisons and they heard from our VP of Diversity on her presentation about navigating discussions on diverse topics.

Thank you to the Presidents from ASWSUHS, ASWSUV, ASCWU, ASGBC, ASUWB, ASUW, ASUWT and GPSA who attended!



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 students across Washington alongside our member campus liaisons.

Apply now on our website, application deadline extended to October 15th!



Fernanda Armas

Meet your Board of Directors Chair!

Associated Students of the University of Washington Bothell

Fernanda is a senior studying Psychology and Public Policy. As Board of Directors Chair, she is excited to represent the Board as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. As ASUWB President, she is looking forward to advocating for policies related to mental and physical health resources for students, increasing access to childcare, increasing basic needs resources and addressing International student specific issues!

Meet the Presidents of the 2024-25 Board of Directors- Part One



Hadyn Fernholz- Hartman

Associated Students of WSU Health Sciences

Hadyn is a senior at WSU Spokane studying Nutrition and Exercise Physiology. In his role on the Board of Directors and as President, he is looking forward to learning about policy creation and interacting with legislators at Cougar Day at the Capitol!



Randy Phillips

Associated Students of Tacoma Community College

Randy is a junior studying Business. In his role on the Board and as ASTCC President, he is excited to collaborate with other schools and be a voice for students in Washington.



Tania Henriques

Associated Students of Washington State University (Pullman)

Tania is a senior studying Elementary Education. This year as ASWSU President, she is looking forward to accomplishing all of the initiatives her VP and her have set out to achieve. They're focused on basics needs, transportation, and domestic violence awareness, and with the help of their amazing Executive staff, we hope to see each of these goals accomplished!



Naomi Snow

Associated Students of the University of Washington (Seattle)

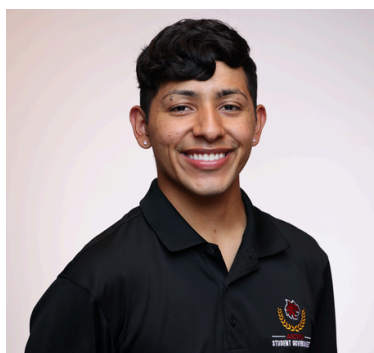
Naomi is a senior studying Political Science. As ASUW President, one of her goals is to increase outreach and involvement for both ASUW and WSA. By strengthening our connection with students, we can more effectively advocate for a more equitable, safe, and inclusive education.



Daniel Ngoy

Associated Student Government of Bellevue College

Daniel is a junior studying Data Analytics. As President of ASGBC, he is focused on lobbying the legislature for issues impacting his students. He believes that getting more community and technical colleges involved in advocacy will strengthen our efforts and benefit both our schools and the state.



Malik Cantú

Associated Students of Central Washington University

Malik is a senior studying Theater Performance. As ASCWU President, they look forward to getting more CWU students informed and involved with the WSA!

Letter from the President:

Hello WSA!

Last month seemed to really fly by. As we prepare for the upcoming legislative session, I am inspired by each student on the BOD and Executive committee who have all shown great leadership. Something I often think about with the WSA is what kind of legacy and impact we as an association and leaders want to make. With that in mind, let us remember that what we do matters, what we do has an impact.

As we continue working on our state priorities, I also have realized how important it is that we have a national voice. I have been recently engaged in efforts to restart the United States Student Association. As an organization, the USSA predates the WSA, going back to 1947. They were an active and strong voice in national student organizing with multiple statewide student associations and student governments being members around the nation.


USSA at its peak had over 20 employees and ran voter registration drives that registered around 135,000 students to vote in the 2012 election across 10 different states. They had a strong influence on federal policy working with members of Congress and D.C. think tanks. After such great success, however, the association hit hard times in 2019 from budget cuts and staff difficulties. The association dissolved and went dormant. Since this time, there has been a lack of strong student-led and student-organized voices at the federal level.

Currently, I join students representing 9 other states weekly to discuss organization structure and priorities. The key issues we have identified include student debt and freedom of speech among others. Recently, I attended a meeting where a USSA alum named Angus Johnston spoke. He is a historian of American Student Activism and Higher Education. In our discussion, Angus recalled the WSA from many years ago. It was at Western Washington University that delegates from the former USSA met to create their priorities around Sexual Assault Prevention. These discussions at WWU would go on to influence change at the federal level. Hearing this inspired me quite a bit, this was a role WSA had a strong involvement with in the past. It is fitting now that the WSA takes a key role as the association restarts. USSA will be starting student committees around policy, operations, and outreach. I would like to call on those who are able and interested to join these efforts as the association picks up, I will be sharing more information about this soon over email.

As an association, the WSA over our 50+ years has accomplished and influenced a great many things to better serve our students. We are arguably one of the most effective statewide student associations when compared nationally. This can be measured and seen in our close relationships with the legislature and continued policy successes such as the Washington College Grant; The most generous state financial aid program in the nation. I see many opportunities at the state and federal levels for us to continue pushing our efforts and being change-makers. Let's keep up the charge and bring our enthusiasm and leadership forward as we fish for success at the upcoming October General Assembly!

Collin Bannister

Thank you for reading!

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