

## WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY TALKING POINTS IN SUPPORT OF AN ENGINEERING PROGRAM

- Business and industry leaders across the state have advocated for more college graduates with bachelor degrees in Engineering. Washington will demand 282,140 STEM jobs by 2018, requiring a 24 percent increase in training; 7 percent above the national average (and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall). Western Washington University represents the most cost-effective way to help meet that need.
- Governor Gregoire included \$7.6 million in her 2012 State Supplemental Budget to be divided between the University of Washington and Washington State University to address this concern. Western Washington University was not included in the Governor's budget, but the legislature could choose to include funding for Western in its budget.
- Western proposes to transition quickly its Engineering Technology Program to full engineering status. The following programs would be elevated to Engineering status.

Electronics Engineering Technology	TO	Electrical Engineering
Plastics Engineering Technology	TO	Plastics Engineering
Manufacturing Engineering Technology	TO	Manufacturing Engineering

- Western would add an additional 85 to 100 Engineering graduates to the state total every year if the upgrade is made to move these three programs from Engineering Technology to industry-ready Engineering Degree status.
- The state investment to help Western initiate this transition is only \$1.5 million. This investment would result in each of the programs meeting ABET accreditation requirements.
- No additional state investment for capital is needed as Western already has well-established technical lab facilities. In addition, Western also has a 2,400 sq. ft. workforce development and training lab and a 3,800 sq. ft. research and development laboratory at its Technology Development Center, which could facilitate future expansion.
- Western's Engineering Technology Program is highly respected because of the practical hands-on learning experience that students engage in with its highly respected faculty. A new engineering program would inherit this long standing commitment.
- Western's Department of Engineering Technology has a long history of producing graduates who are both well-grounded in the fundamentals of engineering technology, and skilled in the use of cutting edge technical fabrication and analytical design technologies.
- Western has unique new leadership in its College of Sciences and Technology in building and maintaining top engineering programs at other universities, which will insure the success of a rapid transition.