

*Council of Presidents*  
*Representing Washington's Public Baccalaureate Institutions*  
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**COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS'  
2009-11 BUDGET POSITIONS**

**Budget Issues:**

- Legislative budget proposals cut public baccalaureate institutions between 20 and 31% -- the deepest in Washington's history.
- These proposed cuts to higher education are among the highest in the nation and the deepest among peer states.
- The proposed legislative budget cuts to four-year institutions erase the investments made over the past decade.
- Public 4-year institutions were cut well below the federal threshold for the state to qualify for stimulus funds. Stimulus funds were added back to 4-year institutions at a disproportionately lower level.
- We estimate these budget reductions will deny access to over 10,000 students.
- The amount of time it takes for students to graduate will increase resulting in additional tuition, housing and living costs for current students and families.
- Budget cuts will result in thousands of layoffs across the state.
- Our institutions are the primary employers in communities in which they are located. Significant job losses in higher education will be devastating for local communities.

## **Necessary Actions to Mitigate Impact of Budget Cuts:**

- Limit state funds reduction to 20% below 2009-11 maintenance level.
- Grant governing boards authority to increase tuition up to 14% per year for resident undergraduates. Enact SB 5734 reauthorizing tuition setting authority for graduate and professional and non-resident students.
- Allocate federal stimulus dollars equitably across the higher education sector by providing stimulus dollars to four-year institutions to bring us back to the 2009 budget level.
- Allow institutions maximum flexibility to manage budget reductions.
- Student financed building accounts should remain at the institution they attend.

## **CONCLUSION:**

**Higher education will sustain a record reduction in state funding. Adopting these necessary actions, however, will mitigate much of the impact on students and their ability to graduate in a timely manner. It will also reduce the impact on our employees, their families and the communities in which they reside.**