March 25, 2021

Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Suzan DelBene
United States House of Representatives
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Rick Larsen
United States House of Representatives
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler
United States House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Dan Newhouse
United States House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
United States House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Derek Kilmer
United States House of Representatives
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Pramila Jayapal
United States House of Representatives
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Kim Schrier
United States House of Representatives
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Adam Smith
United States House of Representatives
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Marilyn Strickland
United States House of Representatives
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the State of Washington's Congressional Delegation:

As presidents of the four-year colleges and universities in Washington, we write to urge your leadership in enacting President Biden's proposal to double the Pell Grant maximum and to ensure that such an investment would be maintained going forward by making the increased portion of the grant an entitlement. No greater step could be taken to increase access and success for the more than 100,000 students who rely on Pell Grants to attend a college or university in the State of Washington.

This year alone, Pell Grants are providing more than $406 million to make college possible for students from low-income families and those who are the first in their families to pursue higher education. The impact this program has had on the lives of individuals and their families, and the economic health and competitiveness of the State of Washington, and indeed the nation, is without parallel.

Next year our nation will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Pell Grant program. It would be a fitting tribute to our state and our nation to honor this pivotal milestone by doubling the program by the June 23, 2022 anniversary.

Our colleges and universities stand ready to assist you in this collective effort to ensure that the Pell Grant program continues to transform the lives of the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Jim Gaudino
President, Central Washington University

David May
Interim President, Eastern Washington University

George Bridges
President, Evergreen State College

Thayne M. McCulloh
President, Gonzaga University

Andrew Sund
President, Heritage University

Allan Belton
President, Pacific Lutheran University

Roy F. Heynderickx
President, Saint Martin's University

Daniel J. Martin
President, Seattle Pacific University

Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.
President, Seattle University

Isiaah Crawford
President, University of Puget Sound

Ana Mari Cauce
President, University of Washington

John McVay
President, Walla Walla University

Kirk Schulz
President, Washington State University

Sabah Randhawa
President, Western Washington University

Kathleen Murray
President, Whitman College

Beck A. Taylor
President, Whitworth University