



Distinguished Scholarships Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Celebrating WSU Students and Alumni

*Broadening their educations with nationally competitive, federally funded
Distinguished Scholarships*

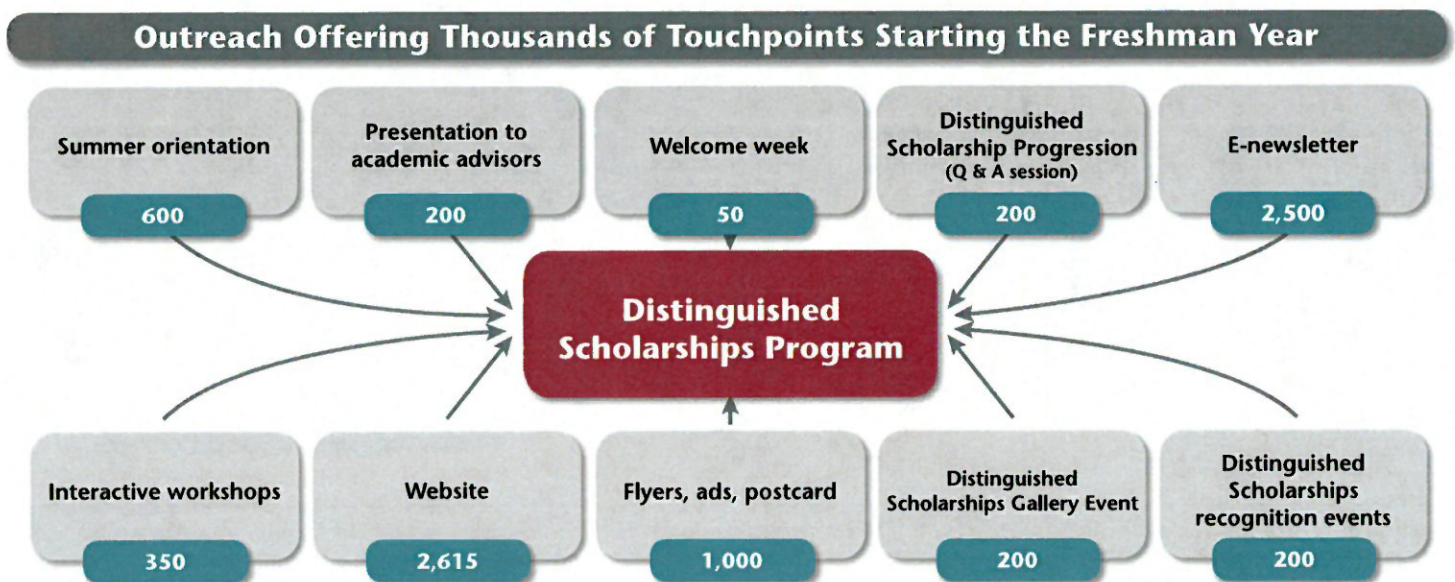


Fall 2015

Recent Program Accomplishments

The WSU Distinguished Scholarships Program's robust, ongoing information campaign builds awareness of prestigious, nationally competitive awards among students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the community. Using a multi-faceted approach, the program has made significant progress throughout the institution and beyond to engage students' interest in seeking awards and assisting them along their path.

- WSU's **first Udall Scholar**, announced April 2015
- The **Distinguished Scholars Gallery**, a permanent, dedicated recognition center in the Compton Union Building (CUB)
- Three annual events—**Celebrate Distinguished Scholars** (fall recognition and pinning ceremony); **Distinguished Scholars Progression** (winter informational event where high-achieving first-year students learn about prestigious awards from mentoring faculty); **Distinguished Scholars Reception** (spring tribute to year's applicants and their recommenders)
- **COUGParents grants** (2), funding publicity and promotions
- **National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA)** invited poster presentation at annual meeting describing how WSU students build eligibility for prestigious awards starting in their first-year
- **Distinguished Scholarships Advisory Board**, an advisory council and **subcommittees** made up of WSU faculty and staff from many colleges, disciplines, and campuses who serve as mentors and advisors to students on the path to an award
- **DistinguishedScholarships.wsu.edu**, a re-conceived and re-designed website accessible on multiple media devices to accommodate and inform
- **Distinguished Scholarships E-newsletter**, with 31 issues sent in 2014-15 to 2,500 emails, helping subscribers prepare, process, and participate as they progress along the path to distinguished scholarships
- In-person and online informational **presentations to thousands** at summer Alive! orientation sessions and numerous workshops; dozens of tailored presentations to students and faculty in the Honors College, International Programs, academic colleges, student clubs, the ACCESS Center (disability services), the Veterans Center, Multicultural Student Services, and the Native American Center



Cover photo: 2014 Fulbright-mtvU winner Scott Shigeota ('11 Communication) pursued graduate studies in Iceland, and produced a music and arts festival there in summer 2015.

Distinguished Scholars At a Glance

In 2014-15, WSU had:

16

**Distinguished
Scholarship
Winners**

1

Honorable Mention

Of the 80 awards sought in 2014-15, there were 63 applications; 59 of those were submitted and/or endorsed.
Of those submitted applications:

3.43

**Average GPA of award
winners**

Washington

**Home state with most
submitters (83.3%)**

37%/63%

Males/females

33.3%

Minority

24.1%

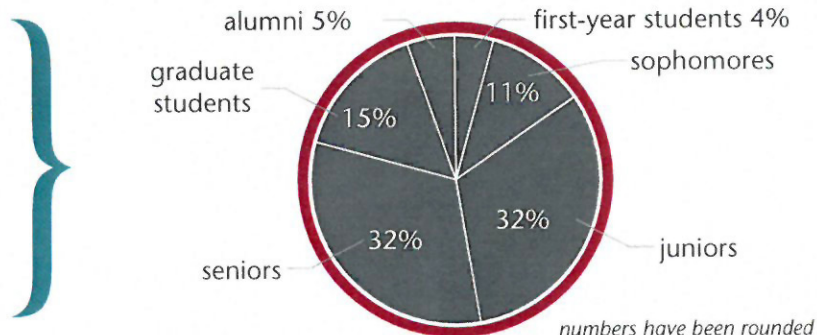
Low-income

31.4%

First-generation

Interest rises steadily as WSU applicants progress through their undergraduate years.

Of those whose applications were submitted and/or endorsed by WSU in 2014-15:



Increasing numbers of Washington State University students are intrigued by the prospect of winning distinguished scholarships, those nationally competitive awards bearing the names of impactful statesmen and business leaders. They know that having, say, a Fulbright or Goldwater award on their resume would be intriguing to employers and graduate schools. Today's savvy students also value the awards' more intrinsic values, such as bringing new and often international dimensions to their education and funding a large part of one or more years of college.

Igniting their interest in these prestigious fellowships since 2010 has been the WSU Distinguished Scholarships Program, part of WSU Undergraduate Education. It more centrally and strategically cultivates students as scholars, **guiding them to build a portfolio of accomplishments in the four cornerstones of their education: initiative, engagement, effort, and leadership.** The program is structured to have numerous touchpoints with students across the university that begin prior to their freshman year and continue through the application and interview process.

The WSU mission calls for the university to "...extend knowledge through innovative educational programs in which students and emerging scholars are mentored to realize their highest potential and assume roles of leadership, responsibility, and service to society (state, nation, and world)." The Distinguished Scholarships Program is helping to fulfill that mission in unique and tangible ways. Information in this brochure explains how, and highlights some of our most successful accomplishments. Please be in touch if you would like more details.

Sincerely,

Mary Sánchez Lanier, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice Provost

Sarah Ann Hones, M.Ed.
Distinguished Scholarships Program Director

Distinguished Scholars Across the Globe

WSU Distinguished Scholars' prestigious awards have enhanced their studies at WSU and around the world since the Distinguished Scholarships program began in 2010.



WSU's First Udall Awardee

"It's such an honor to be the first from WSU to get this distinguished scholarship. I will enjoy being a role model for future students and encourage them to apply. This is also an honor for my community, the home of the Nimiipuu [Nez Perce]."

—Rachel E. Ellenwood, Pre-Nursing student



Goldwater Awardee

"The Goldwater will certainly help me financially. But what I really took away from the entire process is that people at the national level believe I have a future in research and are willing to help me get there."

—Seth Schneider, Genetics and Cell Biology student

