

Resolution Supporting Educational Student Employees Bargaining their First Contract with Western Washington University

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Democrats are dedicated to promoting justice, equity, and fairness in our community; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University (WWU) and its students and employees wield considerable influence in the cultural and economic landscape of Bellingham, making it imperative that the institution upholds its commitment to social responsibility and acts as a beacon of fairness and inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, Educational Student Employees (ESEs) play a crucial role in supporting the academic mission and operations of WWU; and

WHEREAS, the fair treatment and just compensation of ESEs are essential for maintaining a thriving academic community and ensuring quality education for all students; and

WHEREAS, ESEs at WWU are currently bargaining their first contract with the university administration to secure fair wages, benefits, and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, without a fair contract ESEs at WWU are currently facing inequities and uncertainties that compromise their well-being and hinder their ability to fully engage in their academic pursuits; and

WHEREAS, bargaining for a fair contract is a fundamental right of workers, and the success of these negotiations will have a significant impact on the livelihoods of ESEs and the overall academic environment at WWU; and

WHEREAS, supporting the rights of ESEs to negotiate and strike, if necessary, for a fair contract aligns with our values of economic justice, worker empowerment, and educational equity, and contributes to the creation of a more just and equitable public institution of higher education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom Democrats support the Educational Student Employees at Western Washington University in their efforts to negotiate a fair contract with the university administration;

Be it further resolved, that the Whatcom Democrats call upon Western Washington University to negotiate in good faith with the educational student employees and their union representatives to reach an agreement that addresses the needs and concerns of ESEs;

Be it further resolved, that the Whatcom Democrats urge Western Washington University to prioritize fair wages, tuition assistance, affordable healthcare, adequate job security, and equitable working conditions for all student employees;

Be it further resolved, that we call upon all members of the community, including students, faculty, staff, and local residents, to support the ESEs in their strike action and to advocate for a resolution that ensures fair compensation, adequate benefits, and dignified working conditions for all ESEs at WWU, thereby advancing the cause of justice and equity in higher education and beyond;

Be it further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of Western Washington University, the WWU Board of Trustees, the bargaining team representing educational student employees, and other relevant stakeholders.

Adopted by Whatcom County Democrats at their April 27, 2024, General Membership Meeting by a unanimous vote (58-0)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A A Reding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first two letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Andrew A Reding
Chair, Whatcom County Democrats