

Kittitas County ◦ City of Cle Elum ◦ City of Ellensburg ◦ City of Kittitas ◦ City of Roslyn ◦ Town of South Cle Elum

KITTITAS COUNTY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS

February 19th, 2026

Board of Trustees
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Members of the Central Washington University Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the Kittitas County Conference of Governments (KCCOG), we are writing to highlight the vital importance of the partnership between Central Washington University and the communities of Kittitas County. As the university navigates its current internal challenges, we believe it is essential to share our perspective on the value of CWU as a cornerstone institution and a driver of regional prosperity.

Central Washington University is more than an academic hub; it is a critical public asset and a primary engine for our local economy. Our member jurisdictions rely on a stable, forward-looking university to bolster workforce development, support local businesses, and enhance the overall vitality of our region.

In our experience, President Jim Wohlpart has been an engaged and transparent partner in these efforts. We particularly appreciate:

- **Economic Collaboration:** His commitment to aligning university resources with regional economic development goals.
- **Strategic Communication:** The consistent dialogue he has maintained with local government leaders, ensuring that the university remains an active participant in community planning.
- **Institutional Stewardship:** His focus on long-term sustainability during a period of significant fiscal and enrollment challenges across the higher education landscape.

We recognize that the university is currently managing complex internal challenges and a difficult state funding environment. While the Kittitas County Conference of Governments does not take a position on the internal governance matters of the University, we do wish to express our appreciation for the collaborative spirit and professional relationship we have enjoyed with President Wohlpart's administration.

Maintaining a strong, stable relationship between the university and the surrounding community is paramount. We look forward to continuing our work with the Board and university leadership to ensure CWU remains a thriving and integral part of Kittitas County.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the university and our region.

Sincerely,



Bryan Elliott
Chairman
Kittitas County Conference of Governments