

Western Oregon University Foundation 2025-2026 Competitive Grants Program *Award Recipients*

College of Education- Bridge Program

COE Bridge Program

Total award: \$1,000

The Bridge Program offers free professional development events featuring expert speakers on changing "hot" topics in education, providing mentoring, networking, resources, refreshments, and strategies to help pre- and in-service teachers engage diverse PK-12 learners, increase educator satisfaction and effectiveness, reduce attrition, foster teacher leadership, share academic opportunities at WOU, and seeks funding to support and sustain the program.

Submitted by Alicia Wenzel

Teacher Prep Student Support Services (TPSSS)

ORELA Voucher Grant

Total award: \$1,000

Receiving partial funding will reduce the number of students who could receive financial support. We will prioritize students who are both first generation (FG) and come from low income (LI) families as opposed to offering vouchers to any TP - SSS participant, allowing us to provide support to those with the greatest need. We will also consider our ability to cover a portion of the ORELA exam as well.

Submitted by Amber Logan

Behavioral Sciences Division - Psychology Department

Talmadge Middle School Mentoring Program

Total award: \$880

We are requesting funds to support the WOU-Talmadge Middle School Mentoring Program allowing us to provide social family events, an afterschool snack, and small stipends for mentors to help motivate middle school students' success and family involvement that strengthen the mentoring relationship.

Submitted by Brooke Dolenc Nott

Psychological Sciences

Technoference and Parent-Child Language Research Project

Total award: \$815

We are requesting funding to support student travel and participation in the Western Psychological Association (WPA) research conference in spring 2026 in Tacoma, Washington.

Submitted by Chehalis Strapp

WOU Early Childhood Education Program

Keynote speaker for 2025 ECI Summer Institute

Total award: \$1,000

Funding will be used to offset the cost of the keynote speaker (Dr. Kisa Marx) for the 2025 Early Childhood Inclusion Summer Institute (ECISI) that is put on by the WOU Early Childhood Program in partnership with community programs.

Submitted by Cindy Ryan

WOU Early Childhood Education Program

Community College Visit Day

Total award: \$1,000

We are requesting funding to help support our Community College Visit Day, where our EC program invites our partner community colleges to bring their students to our campus to spend a day with us.

Submitted by Cindy Ryan

Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society)/History Department

Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society) Annual Northwest Regional Conference, April 2026

Total award: \$1,000

The purpose of this grant request is to foster Student Success among WOU undergraduates by expanding financial support for WOU students presenting original, undergraduate research papers at the annual Northwest Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) Pacific Northwest Regional conference at Gonzaga University (Spokane, WA) in April 2026.

Submitted by Elizabeth Swedo

Communication & Environmental Club

Campus Garden

Total award: \$1,000

We are requesting funding for 2 small student stipends to enable Campus Garden promotion, volunteer recruitment, group activities, curricular connections, and continued fundraising.

Submitted by Emily Plec

Department of Chemistry

Bridging the Gap: High School-University Chemistry

Total award: \$550

The Chemistry Department at WOU aims to strengthen relationships with high school students in STEM by hosting laboratory activities, providing opportunities to interact with WOU undergraduate students, and offering campus tours.

Submitted by Keith D. Schwartz

Occupational Therapy Department

OTD Admissions/Recruitment

Total award: \$1,000

Attend the UC Davis Pre-Health Conference to increase the visibility and recruitment of quality Occupational Therapy Students to Western Oregon's OTD Program.

Submitted by Kristin Nxumalo

Division of Education & Leadership

AAPI Heritage Month Celebration

Total award: \$1,000

We request funds to support the 6th annual Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month event of the College of Education in May 2026. The \$1,000 funding will help book a nationally renowned AAPI keynote speaker to center AAPI history and celebrate AAPI heritage.

Submitted by Lin Wu; Ya-Fang Cheng; Jaclyn Caires-Hurley

Division of Education and Leadership

NWMC Travel Grants

Total award: \$1,000

I am seeking funding to reimburse WOU mathematics education students for travel expenses to attend and present at the Northwest Mathematics Conference in Tacoma, Washington in October 2025.

Submitted by Rachel Harrington

Early Childhood Program

Social justice workshop series

Total award: \$1,000

Award to offset the costs of hosting a series of Social Justice and Equity Workshops by the WOU Early Childhood Program for WOU students, faculty, staff, potential students, education partners, and community practitioners.

Submitted by Ya-Fang Cheng

The Office of International Education & Development (OIED) and the Faculty Senate International Education and Services Committee (IESC)

International Education Event

Total award: \$500

Award to offset the costs of hosting the annual International Education Event by the Office of International Education & Development (OIED) and the Faculty Senate International Education and Services Committee (IESC) for WOU students, faculty, staff, potential students, and any interested community partners and organizations.

Submitted by Ya-Fang Cheng

Student Success and Advising

First Generation Student Initiatives

Total award: \$1,000

Funding to support first generation student initiatives relating to establishing the presence of the Tri-Alpha Honor Society for FG students, and application for the First Gen Forward Network- a national distinction meant to expand the network of resources universities have to support first generation students.

Submitted by Dana Nunez Silva

Office of Academic Effectiveness

Retention and Student Success Project

Total award: \$500

Our grant does not permit purchasing for two categories we need to promote the success of the WOLF Student Experience Feedback Form; survey drawing prizes (\$800) and food/beverage (\$200) to be used at events promoting the survey.

Submitted by Daniella Dugan

Sports Performance/Athletics

Indoor/Outdoor GPS Tracking Units

Total award: \$1,000

We currently have 24 (a few break each year) trackers that we use for outdoor sports which are fabulous and have been a huge training tool for us. We'd like to also get a few of a different type of trackers that we can use indoors as well, and trackers that track heart rate/energy zones. This will help us regulate how much volume they are doing in practice/conditioning as well as allow us to see who is training in their optimal training zones and who might need to be pushed more or let off the gas a bit in order to optimize performance AND prevent overtraining.

Submitted by Cori Metzgar

Athletics

Giving Back to Students

Total award: \$500

I would like to provide give-a-way gift to students who come and engage during athletic events to enhance the game environment.

Submitted by Michael Gonzalez

Campus Recreation

Subsidizing student certifications for new employees

Total award: \$1,000

This funding will go towards subsidizing student CPR, lifeguarding, Climbing Wall Instructors, Wilderness remote first aid and instructor certifications for new employees required to employment.

Submitted by Zachary Hammerle

Disability Access Services and Human Resources

Training to become official ADA coordinators to ensure ADA compliance at WOU

Total award: \$750

We are requesting grant funding in order to pay for the training to become certified ADA Coordinators in order to serve WOU more effectively, in our respective capacities, improving accessibility for students, employees, and community members.

Submitted by Emily Herb

Title IX/HR

Promotion of Title IX Awareness

Total award: \$500

In the upcoming academic year, I plan to promote Title IX awareness and knowledge through targeted programs and active participation in campus events and activities.

Submitted by Sara Glascock

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Celebrate Your True Self (Visit Day)

Total award: \$1,000

Celebrate Your True Self, formerly GSA Day, is a one day recruiting event for high school students in the greater Willamette Valley area, traditionally a two-hour radius of the university, to celebrate the LGBTQ2SIA+ community and learn about Western Oregon University.

Submitted by Dominique Vargas

DEI

HSI Loteria

Total award: \$455

I am requesting funds to help with printing materials for HSI Loteria along with prizes.

Submitted by Cristian Mendez-Garcia

Empowering Communities Committee

Empowering Communities Initiatives

Total award: \$500

The Empowering Communities committee is eager to build a campus community that embraces positive and productive conversations and our initiative is designed to create learning opportunities for how to engage in civil discourse and learn from one another.

Submitted by Augusta Edwards

Stonewall Center/Abby's House

Gender Affirming Care

Total award: \$500

Grant funding would allow us to enhance our gender-affirming resources for students with both immediate and unique needs, enabling us to order tailored supplies like safe binding materials that match individual body type and skin tone.

Submitted by Ezra Lambert

Abby's House

Student Emergency Needs

Total award: \$500

We will provide flexible, immediate financial support to 10 students experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, or basic needs emergencies, allowing them to purchase essential items and access services that meet their individual needs.

Submitted by Maria Barrera

Office of Student Conduct, Student Engagement and Title IX

Picture This: New Year, New Beginnings, New Friendships!

This project will purchase a new instant camera for the office of Student Conduct that prints small pictures, along with film for the new camera and extra film for a Polaroid camera currently owned by Student Engagement, to capture and share moments during Welcome Week and beyond!

Soda Soiree: Bubbly Connections Begin Here

I am requesting funds to purchase supplies for an Italian Soda Soiree during PACK Welcome Week, where professional staff will serve custom Italian sodas and connect with students in partnership with the Dean of Students, University.

Student Conduct Merchandise: t-shirts

We are requesting funding to purchase promotional items that will support Student Conduct outreach efforts, promote awareness of student rights and responsibilities, and help build a positive, respectful campus culture.

Total award: \$1,000

Submitted by Maria Bonifacio-Sample

New Student & Family Programs

PACK Welcome Week Prizes

Total award: \$1,000

We are requesting \$1,000 to purchase prizes as incentives for students to engage and attend PACK Welcome Week educational events along with quarterly orientation events for WOU's incoming non-traditional and transfer students.

Submitted by Shelby Worthing

CDC - Student Affairs

Child Development Center Safety Grant

Total award: \$977.79

This grant would help the CDC purchased some needed safety items including walkie talkies, new bike helmets and 3 new Toddler size bikes for our smaller students.

Submitted by Tammy Gardner

29 grants awarded for a total of \$23,927.79

The Competitive Grants program is funded by unrestricted gifts to the WOU Foundation.

The application deadline is in April with notification in June.