This role play template is a practice worksheet you can use in preparation for WA-SEN sponsored events during the 2024 legislative session or in-district meetings with your elected representatives.

Issue Area: Washington College Grant (need-based financial aid)

Student: Thanks for holding this meeting

- Hello Representative Olympia. My name is _____
- First, I want to thank you for meeting with me today. This is the first time I have attended something like this and did not know what to expect but it is great that you are giving constituents in your district a chance to speak to you to share more about what is important to us.
- I am a student at (**name college or university**) majoring in_____and on campus (while virtual or hybrid now) I am involved in,_____and I thought it was time to get involved in the legislative process

Volunteer: Representative Olympia

- *Volunteer: Say something here in response to a constituent thank you and introduction*

Student:

- This meeting was organized by Washington Student Engagement Networks (WA-SEN for short).
- As you may know, we are a member of the College Promise Coalition and are administered by Independent Colleges of Washington with funding from a private foundation.
- Are you familiar with the Coalition's work? *(if leg. is familiar, skip this or shorten and move on)* the Coalition brings together leaders and advocates from education, business, labor, and community-based organizations. This partnership advocates for post-secondary opportunity and access for all Washington students, working with policymakers to adopt and support policies that increase higher education attainment.
- WA-SEN students cover all corners of the state and include 50+ college campuses across the three sectors, the 2-year community and technical colleges, the 4 -year public baccalaureate institutions, and the 4-year private not-for-profit colleges.
- The reason for meeting with you, Representative Olympia, was to thank you for supporting students and to share my story with you.
- I am also aware that there are many students, like me, constituents of (**insert district #**), who now qualify and are receiving the Washington College Grant but are worried about the post

pandemic pressures and the impact it may have during the session. **This college guarantee for families living on low incomes is still very important!**

Student: *Tell a bit of your story from the story worksheet you just worked on.*

Examples:

- *To pay for my college I receive scholarships and state financial aid and my parents help; or I would not be able to go to college if it were not for my scholarships;*
- *I am the first in my family to go to college, my mom and/or dad insisted that I go to college, and they are right because I know I will be thankful as my life goes on;*
- *I absolutely love what I am taking in school, and I love the university I attend, it is the right fit for me and what I want to accomplish;*
- *I can't imagine not getting a college degree because of what it gives you for the rest of your life;*
- *At times going to school is hard – I see some students really struggling especially over financial issues, so state aid is really important.*

Student: *Express importance of support (get to the purpose of the meeting; this is the Call-to-Action portion of your worksheet)*

Examples:

- *The reason I came here is to say thank you for continuing to support the Washington College Grant; and I hope you will protect student aid in all its forms, so that those who need it can count on it to get to and through college.*
- *I believe the state should help make college accessible no matter what campus a student chooses to attend.*

Student:

- Rep. Olympia, thank you for hearing my story. Did you have any questions or comments for me? And anything I am unable to answer today for you, I can most certainly find the answer and circle back with your office.

Volunteer: Representative Olympia

- *Volunteer: Share your response and commitment as a legislator for higher education attainment!*

Student:

- Thank you again, Rep. Olympia. Would you be willing to take a picture with us? Our office will be sure to send you a copy. *End by thanking each other for meeting and say goodbye!*