

WASHINGTON

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORKS

*Advancing equity, higher education attainment, and robust financial aid by elevating the diverse voices of Washington's students*

# Mobilizing for Equity

# UW **IMPACT**

- UW Alumni Association's legislative advocacy program
- A 501(C)(3) non-profit funded through UWAA member dues (no state dollars)
- Legislative advocacy program dedicated to:
  - Educating advocates on issues affecting public higher education and the UW
  - Mobilizing alumni and supporters to take action on behalf of the UW and higher education issues

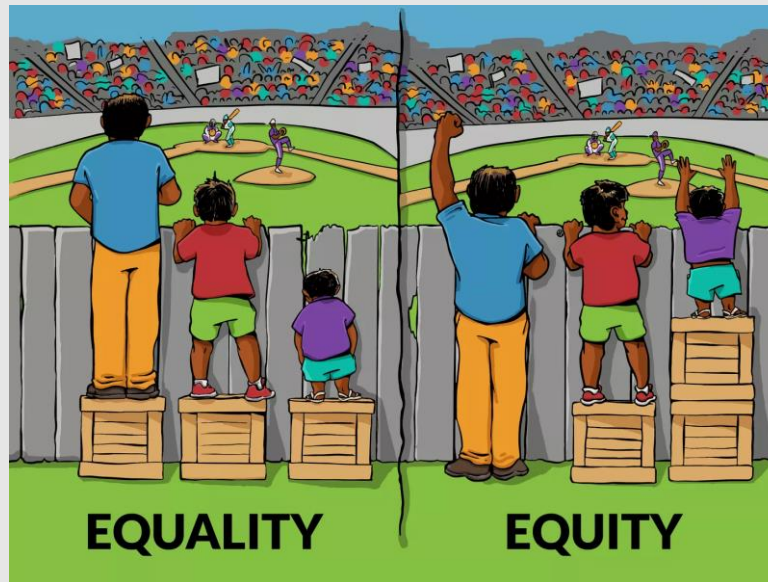
# Session Outline

- What is Equity?
- The Higher Education Act
- Case Study: The PROSPER Act
- Federal student support programs
- Roundtable Discussion
- How UW Impact mobilized advocates around PROSPER Act

# What is Equity?

## Equity

Webster's Dictionary definition: justice according to natural law or right. Specifically- freedom from bias or favoritism



# Equity


## What about Equity in Education?

- Equity in education: providing everyone what they need to be successful
  - Fairness- one's personal conditions should not interfere with the potential of academic success
  - Inclusion- a comprehensive standard that applies to everyone in a specific education system
- Examples of inequities in education:
  - Societal inequities (bias, prejudice and privilege)
  - Socioeconomic inequities (rural, urban and suburban)
  - Cultural inequities
  - Instructional inequities
  - Assessment inequities

Source:  
EdGlossary.org

## History of HEA

- The Higher Education Act of 1965
- Generally reauthorized every 4-6 years
- Last reauthorization was in 2008, was set to expire in 2013
- Extensions filed up until Dec. 2017, when the house proposed the PROSPER Act



Created "to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in postsecondary and higher education."

# PROSPER Act

PROSPER is an acronym: Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform.

- Proposed Eliminations or Cuts:
  - The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
  - Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
  - Subsidized Stafford Loans
  - Federal grant programs (Except Pell Grant)
  - Student support programs, such as Talent Search, TRIO and Gear-UP



# Student Support Programs: Talent Search, TRIO and Gear-UP

- Part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964
- Provide resources for students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Provides academic, career, and financial counseling to students

The logo for TRIO, featuring the word "TRIO" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "i" is lowercase and colored red, while the other letters are uppercase and black. A thin black horizontal line is positioned below the text.

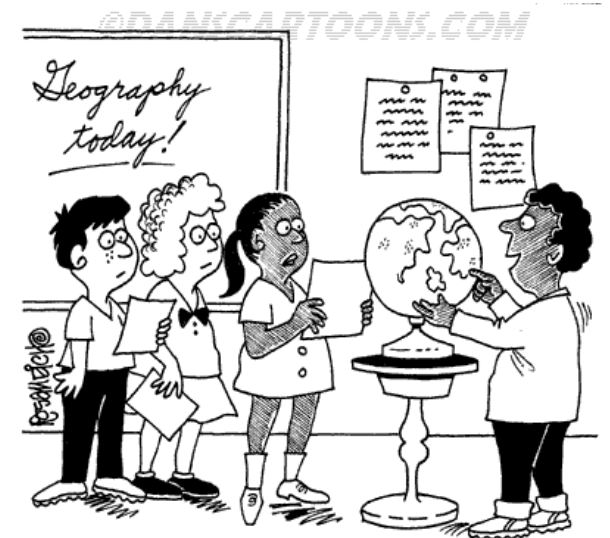
# Why is there a need?

- **By 2050**, the population of Latino youth is expected to grow 137 percent (an increase of 31.3 million), Asians by 96 percent (4.4 million), and African Americans by 15 percent (2.3 million)
- Up to 40 percent of low-income students who are accepted to college don't enroll



# Significant outcomes from threatened federal programs

- Increases degree attainment
- Elevates social mobility
- Expands workforce
- Positive economy effects



# Proposed challenges to TRIO in the PROSPER Act

- Dramatic reduction in funding
- 20% matching requirement for Universities
- Limits grant eligibility if similar programs exist
- Requires participant classification as low-income and/or first-generation
- Requires enrollment documentation for participation

# Are there positive impacts to TRIO from the PROSPER Act?

**YES!**

- ✓ Additional Pell Grant funding
- ✓ Eliminates origination fees on student loans
- ✓ Streamlines the student aid system
- ✓ Allows institutions to set borrowing limits for students

## Where are we now? **October 2018**

“We do need to do some work on the PROSPER Act,” Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.), who co-sponsored loan counseling legislation with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.), told Morning Education. Guthrie said the PROSPER Act called for “major reforms” to higher education. “A lot of universities have pushed back against the reforms,” he said, adding that “it’s going to take more education” of members and outside groups to bring the bill to the floor. (*Politico.org, Sept. 2018*)

## Anticipated Challenges in the future....

- A similar proposal to PROSPER Act, with proposed changes that include:
  - Dramatically reduction in grant programs
  - Impacts to federal student loan programs
  - Elimination or reduction of student support programs
  - Removal of existing safeguards against predatory institutions

What to do!

# **MOBILIZE STUDENTS AND GROUPS**



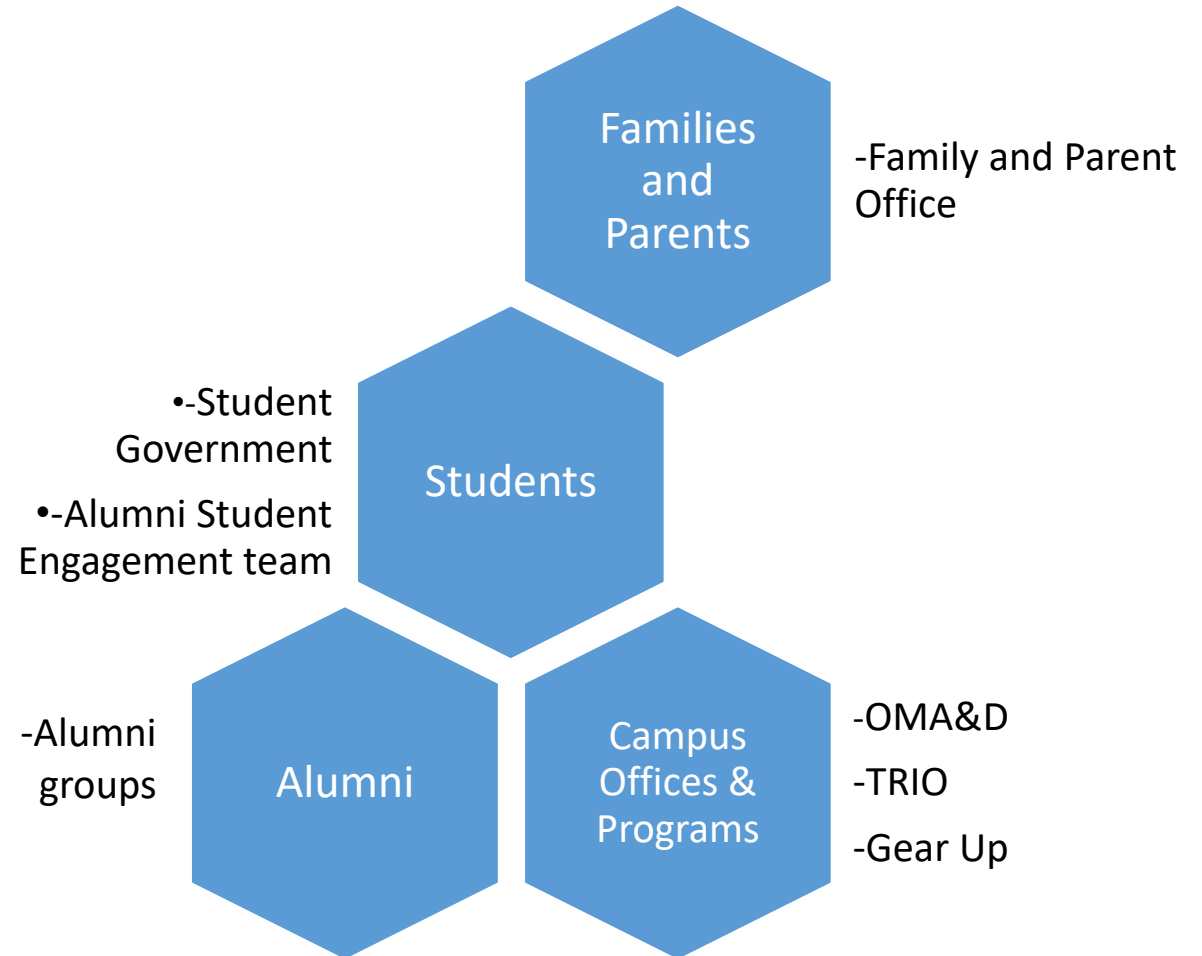
## Roundtable Discussion

1. What other groups might be helpful to mobilize in support of student support programs?
  - What resources might these groups offer?
2. What are innovative ways to engage these groups? Cultivate relationships?
3. In what ways can these different groups take action in support of student support programs?
4. What strategies can you use to create momentum around this issue in a time when it is not apparent ?



# How UW Impact Navigated the PROSPER Act

Identified potentially impacted groups



# UW Impact's limitations on using state resources

- State employees can't participate in advocacy during work hours
- No direct access to institutional resources for outreach
- Campus partners/student groups can't make "Calls to Action"
  - Telling people to contact legislators
  - Providing contact information, like emails, phone numbers and addresses
  - Identifying legislators who are for or against an issue
  - Sharing UW Impact resources for legislator communication

## Communication Strategies

- Provide resources/data
- Amplify messages
  - Share with friends
- Target messages to districts with 'uncertain' legislators
  - Have constituents share their story
- Focus message on the legislation, NOT the legislators or administration
  - Share positive and negative impacts



# Success from PROSPER Act Communications

- Engaged first-time advocates
- Established new relationships
- Formed stronger partnerships
- UW Federal Relations reported constituent voices motivated changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program issue



# Tips for continued success





# How to Engage with UW Impact

- Visit [uwimpact.org](http://uwimpact.org) and join as an advocate
- Like UW Impact on Facebook
- Follow UW Impact on Twitter (@uwimpact)
- Contact me directly:

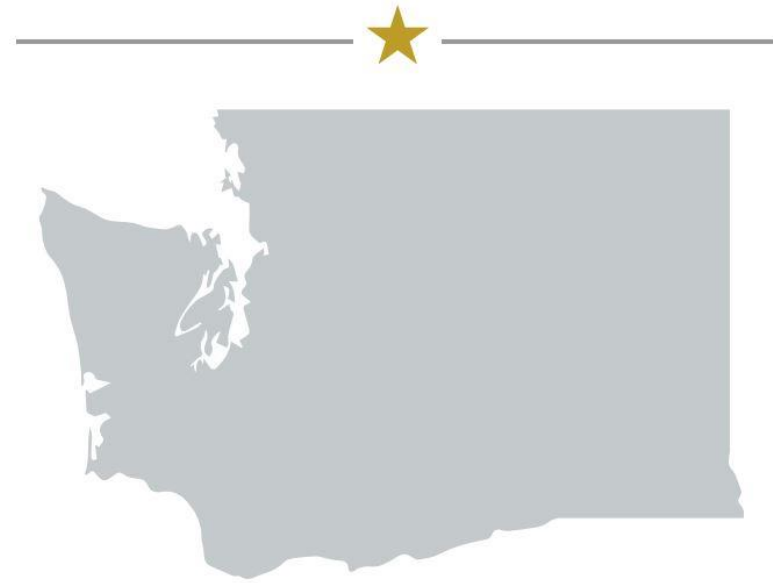
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# RESOURCES

- [https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/equity?utm\\_campaign=sd&utm\\_medium=serp&utm\\_source=jsonld](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/equity?utm_campaign=sd&utm_medium=serp&utm_source=jsonld)
- <https://www.edglossary.org/equity/>
- <https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/education/408975-congress-is-playing-catch-up-with-todays-students>
- <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2018/03/14/the-us-will-become-minority-white-in-2045-census-projects/>
- <https://www.naspa.org/constituent-groups/posts/the-prosper-act-and-trio-students>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triotalent/ts-fastfacts2016.pdf>
- <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-education/2018/09/06/trump-administration-kicks-off-next-round-of-higher-ed-rulemaking-331847>
- [http://www.coenet.org/files/bulletin\\_board-Quick\\_Facts\\_on\\_the\\_PROSPER\\_Act\\_011018.pdf](http://www.coenet.org/files/bulletin_board-Quick_Facts_on_the_PROSPER_Act_011018.pdf)
- <https://www.csus.edu/saseep/ListeningSurvey/First%20Generation%20College%20Students.2.pdf>
- <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/advancing-diversity-inclusion.pdf>
- <https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Advocacy-Curriculum-Module-7-Mobilize-Resources.pdf>



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*Symposium materials available for download. Visit [www.WA-SEN.org](http://www.WA-SEN.org)*