Washington State University is committed to providing quality education in a caring community. The university’s motto — “World Class. Face to Face.” — reflects that commitment.

One of the top 50 public research universities in the U.S., according to U.S. News & World Report, WSU has 10 colleges and a Graduate School. WSU offers strong and varied academic programs. The liberal arts and sciences have an important place in the curriculum, along with business, education, architecture, pharmacy, nursing, and the traditional land-grant programs in agriculture, engineering, home economics, and veterinary medicine.

Founded in Pullman in 1890, WSU is the state’s land-grant research university. It has campuses in Spokane, the Tri-Cities (Richland, Pasco and Kennewick) and Vancouver (across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon); regional Learning Centers and research and extension facilities statewide. Distance Degree Programs offer worldwide access to WSU degrees.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

World Class. Face to Face.

WSU programs in Spokane, about 76 miles to the north of Pullman, play a valuable role in the university’s educational mission. For example, the School of Architecture and Construction Management includes the Interdisciplinary Design Institute at WSU Spokane. The Intercollegiate College of Nursing/WSU College of Nursing is located in Spokane on its own campus. Pharm.D. students complete their third and fourth professional year in Spokane.

There are some 150 fields of study at WSU. Bachelor’s degrees are available in all major areas, with master’s and doctoral degrees available in most. The undergraduate core curriculum, including world civilizations courses and expanded writing requirements, is nationally recognized. WSU’s University Honors College is one of the oldest and most respected, all-university programs for academically talented students.

Instructional faculty of approximately 1,230 provides instruction that opens students’ minds to the most recent knowledge and discoveries. The opportunity for students to know and work closely with their teachers is a Washington State University tradition.

WSU President V. Lane Rawlins says the university is known for its world class faculty and researchers. “We are proud of them and, even more so, in their commitment to work with our students. The success of Washington State University graduates is built upon the practical experience and guidance our students receive while they are on campus.”
Statewide, WSU has more than 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students. More than 18,000 of them study on the Pullman campus, at the Intercollegiate College of Nursing/WSU College of Nursing and in Distance Degree Programs.

Pullman is one of the largest residential campuses west of the Mississippi with about half of the student body living in residence halls, single and family student apartments, and fraternity and sorority houses. Students enjoy a variety of cultural activities in an area that benefits from two universities, WSU and the University of Idaho in Moscow eight miles away.

Students of diverse social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds from throughout the nation and more than 90 foreign countries come together in an academic community committed to learning, discovery and leadership development.

Located on College Hill in Pullman, WSU’s 620-acre campus features modern classrooms and libraries, laboratories, museums, student residences, recreational and athletic facilities.

The 94,000-plus-square-foot new Smith Center for Undergraduate Education includes classrooms with Internet access at every seat, a cyber café, computer labs and much more.

Also on campus is a one-of-a-kind alumni center, student union, a fine arts building with galleries, state-of-the-art science buildings, and a performing arts coliseum that is home to Cougar men’s and women’s basketball. Women’s volleyball is played on a national-class court in Bohler Gym. Football’s Martin Stadium, which seats 37,600, is complemented by modern track and field, women’s soccer, and baseball facilities, all for Pac-10 Conference competition.

A major student life highlight is the new Student Recreation Center. With 160,000 square feet, the center includes lap and leisure pools, a spa, two gyms with seven courts, four racquetball/squash courts, an elevated track, multi-purpose rooms for activities, and the largest student weight fitness room in the country. Also on campus are a nine-hole golf course and 16 all-weather tennis courts. Special playing fields accommodate intramural sports. WSU has one of the largest university-sponsored intramural programs in the nation as well as extensive student life programming.
THE COUGAR NICKNAME
Washington State University students officially adopted the nickname “Cougars” October 28, 1919, three days after a reference to “cougars” was used in a football game story following WSU’s upset 14-0 win at California. In the story, a Bay Area writer said the Pacific Northwest team “played like cougars” in upsetting the Bears.

THE COUGAR MASCOT
In 1927, Governor Roland Hartley presented a cougar cub to the students of the University. This first cougar mascot was called Butch, to honor Herbert “Butch” Meeker of Spokane, who was WSU’s football star at the time. Butch II was presented to the students by Governor Clarence D. Martin in 1938. Butch III and IV were twin cubs, presented by Governor Arthur B. Langlie in 1942. Governor Langlie presented Butch V in 1955. Butch VI, the last live mascot on campus, died in the summer of 1978. He had been presented to WSU by Governor Albert Rosellini in 1964 from the Seattle Zoo. Today, WSU students in a “Butch the Cougar” mascot costume rally school spirit at athletic contests, including football games and other events.

THE COUGAR HEAD LOGO
In 1936, student Randall Johnson, class of 1938, designed the original Cougar head logo for Washington State College. It was used on the side of college trucks. In 1959, when the institution changed from college to university, he re-created the logo to incorporate the “U” in place of the “C.” In 2002, WSU developed a new graphic identity. It employs the Cougar head within a crest, an internationally recognized symbol for higher education.

THE VICTORY BELL
In the late 1800s, the victory bell was mounted on the ground in the center of campus; it rang to start and dismiss classes in those early days. Today, it is located at the Lewis Alumni Centre. A member of the Student Alumni Connection rings it after WSU football win.
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THE UNIVERSITY

The Founding: 1890. The university doors opened in 1892.
The Name: Began as Washington Agricultural College and School of Science and became known as Washington State College in 1905. In 1959, the state legislature renamed it Washington State University.

Academic Structure: Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics, Business and Economics, Education, Engineering and Architecture, Honors, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Pharmacy, Sciences, Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate School.

Outstanding Alumni: The Regents’ Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor WSU bestows upon its alumni. Winners of this award include Neva Abelson, co-developer of the Rh blood test; Philip Abelson, father of the atomic submarine; Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen; astronaut John Fabian; Mel Heinz, WSU and New York Giants professional football all-star; Keith Jackson, ABC-TV college football sportscaster; Far Side cartoonist Gary Larson; Edward R. Murrow, broadcasting’s top journalist; Laurence Peter of “The Peter Principle”; Green Revolution’s Orville Vogel; sociologists William Julius Wilson and James E. Blackwell; and Japanese home economics pioneer Matsuyo Yamamoto.

Students: Some 16,000 undergraduate students and 2,000 graduate students study on the Pullman campus. State-wide, WSU has more than 21,000 students.

Faculty: There are more than 1,500 faculty members on the Pullman campus and more than 5,000 faculty, exempt and classified employees state-wide.

Campuses: WSU’s main campus is in Pullman. The university has campuses in Spokane, Tri-Cities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland) and Vancouver, across the Columbia River from Portland, Ore.

WSU Website: Visit the award-winning Washington State University Web site, www.wsu.edu, for more information.

PULLMAN

Location: Pullman is eight miles from the Washington-Idaho border, in the southeastern part of the state. It is eight miles west of Moscow, Idaho; 76 miles south of Spokane, Washington, and 32 miles north of Lewiston, Idaho.

Pullman’s Beginnings: Originally known as Three Forks, because the Missouri Flat Creek from the north, Dry Creek from the south, and the South fork of the Palouse River from the east converge at this point. The town became Pullman in 1881. One story is that the name came from George Pullman, the king of the great railroad sleeping-car. Pullman was incorporated in 1886.

Climate: Dry and clear most of the year, with hot summers and cold winters. The average annual rainfall is 21 inches per year.

Population: About 25,000, including WSU students.

Pullman is built on hills: Washington State University is on College Hill. The other hills are Military, Pioneer and Sunnyside.

Pullman and Moscow are “Dreamtowns”: Pullman and neighboring Moscow, Idaho, are the “University Cities” because WSU and the University of Idaho have their main campuses in the two respective cities, located eight miles apart. They are also “Dreamtowns,” according to Demographics Daily (Sept. 18, 2000). In a study, 632 U.S. cities with populations of 10,000-50,000 were evaluated with 141 of them called “Dreamtowns” because of their quality of life based on various criteria including vitality, supply of good jobs, freedom from stress, connection to cultural mainstream, support for schools, access to health care, low cost of living, and small-town character.

Pullman has highly rated public schools: In a survey of 15,892 districts nationally, the Pullman School District was named one of the 100 Best in the U.S., according to the Sept./Oct. 2000 issue of Offspring, parenting magazine from the editors of The Wall Street Journal’s SmartMoney.

THE PALOUSE

The Geographic Area: Known as the Palouse (“Pah-loose”), an area between the moist forests of the Rocky Mountains and the dry scablands of Washington. Its irregularly shaped rolling hills were formed by the erosion of thick basalts, followed by a deposition of a loess soil which, with excellent water-holding ability, is the fertile basis for the rich agricultural production of the area.

Beauty of the Palouse: A book, The Most Beautiful Place in the World, 1986 Friendly Press, edited by Jay Maisel, says the “Palouse is the Louvre of farmlands. Four thousand square miles of rolling hills...it has the perfect combination of topography, weather, crops and farming methods to produce a stunning collection of...land-art.” National Geographic, June 1982, calls it “A Paradise Called the Palouse.”

Early Inhabitants: Long before white explorers arrived, Indian tribes, including the Cayuse, Coeur d’Alenes, Nez Perce, Palouse, Umatillas, Walla Walla, Yakamas, and Spokanes, could be found within a 100-mile radius of Pullman. The Nez Perce are credited with the development of the famous Appaloosa horse. Moscow, Idaho, eight miles from Pullman, is home of the national Appaloosa Museum and Heritage Center.

Lewis and Clark traveled near the Palouse: In 1805, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark followed an Indian trail across the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho to the Clearwater River, near the Palouse region. They were the first white men to traverse the vast inland plateau. Their exploration opened up the “Inland Empire” to further exploration and settlement.