

# 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## **EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY** | Investing in Student Access, Success & Affordability - \$3.36 million

Eastern's mission has always been to meet the unique needs of our changing region and the increasingly diverse population we serve. As good stewards of state funds, we prioritize student affordability by keeping tuition reasonable and stable.

Our commitment to low tuition—the most affordable in the state—reflects our core values: as a diversity-serving institution, we embrace equity and social justice. In 2011-2013, when institutions were increasing tuition by 14%-20%, EWU negotiated an 11% tuition increase. As the state's economy and tuition policy evolved, state funding to help offset EWU's lower tuition base did not keep pace. Now, with a reduced level of operating funding, EWU is at a disadvantage among our fellow universities.

To continue ensuring our students' academic and professional success, we must implement comprehensive initiatives and wrap-around programs to support our students. This annual investment in EWU will reaffirm the legislature's commitment to equity and inclusion. Most importantly, it will provide significantly enhanced opportunities for our diverse and talented students.

## **MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

### **Managing Unanticipated Spike in Energy Costs - \$800,000**

A natural gas pipeline rupture in Canada in Oct. 2018 caused unanticipated energy price increases.

### **Roof Replacement Program (Certificate of Participation - Capital Budget) - \$3,000,000**

Legislative authorization will enable EWU to complete a roof replacement program.

## **SERVING THE REGION** | Approval of Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) Degree Offering (HB 1755)

Passage of HB 1755 will give EWU and the other comprehensive universities the option of offering this degree in response to regional demands.

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