The Case for Continued Growth
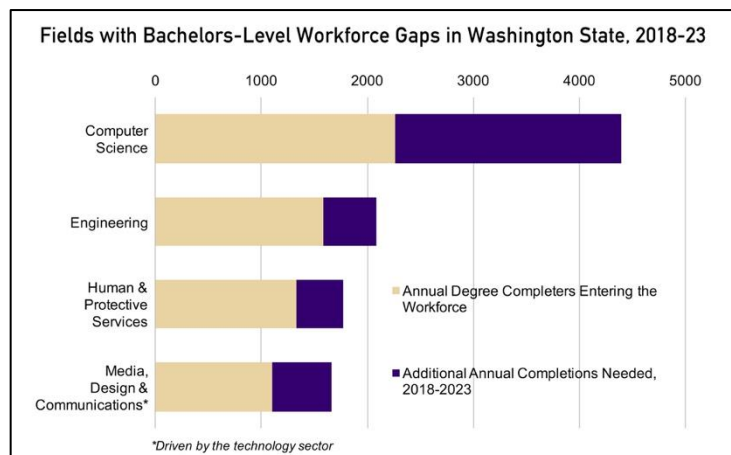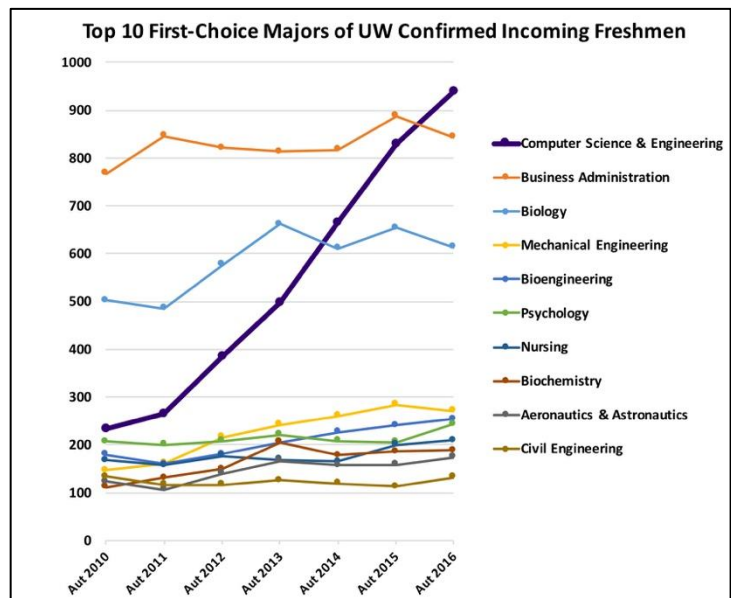
The University of Washington has requested $6 million in the 2017-19 operating budget to complete a planned doubling of enrollment in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, and an additional $7 million to support growth in other fields of Engineering on UW's Seattle campus – plus $3 million to add new technology programs at the Bothell and Tacoma campuses. The case:

Student demand is extraordinary. CSE (the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering) is the #1 first choice major of incoming UW Seattle freshmen. (Four other Engineering fields rank in the top ten.) In the most recent year, only 43% of UW students who successfully completed prerequisite courses and applied to CSE could be accommodated. Many well-qualified students are being turned away.

Employer demand is extraordinary. The workforce gap in our state – the gap between degrees granted and jobs available – is greater in Computer Science than in all other fields combined, according to a study by the Washington Student Achievement Council, the State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, and the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board. (Engineering ranks 2nd.)

CSE's track record of delivering on its proviso commitments is exemplary. Enrollment growth was funded in 2012, 2013-15, and 2015-17. Each time, we immediately enrolled the students. We will do it again with the requested 2017-19 funding, which will grow us to more than 600 degrees per year – double the number of just a few years ago. CSE's students come from all parts of our state; they are economically diverse (more than 1/4 have FAFSA-demonstrated financial need); they are gender-diverse (the proportion of Computer Science bachelors degrees awarded to women is twice the national average, and in 2015 we were the first to receive a new annual award from the National Center for Women & Information Technology, recognizing this success).

Top 10 First-Choice Majors of UW Confirmed Incoming Freshmen

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Business Administration
- Biology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Psychology
- Nursing
- Biochemistry
- Aeronautics & Astronautics
- Civil Engineering

Fields with Bachelors-Level Workforce Gaps in Washington State, 2018-23

- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Human & Protective Services
- Media, Design & Communications*

■ Annual Degree Completers Entering the Workforce

■ Additional Annual Completions Needed, 2018-2023

*Driven by the technology sector

$70 million in private fundraising for a second building to accommodate recent and future CSE growth is nearly complete. This total includes unprecedented levels of support from Microsoft, Amazon, Zillow, and Google – companies that voted with their wallets in joining this public/private partnership. Leading-edge tech companies of all ages and sizes recruit *first* from the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering. The new building has a strong student focus: a high-quality, tiered 250-person lecture hall; multiple classrooms and educational labs; an undergraduate commons where students can study, relax and work together; workrooms for our outstanding interdisciplinary computer animation capstone, and other capstone design courses; improved facilities for teaching assistants to meet with students, as well as a large advising suite; interview rooms where industry representatives can meet with students. Construction began in January 2017, and completion is scheduled for December 2018. *We must fill this building with Washington students, who will receive a world-class education in a field that is powering our state forward.*

The Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering. On March 9, the University of Washington Board of Regents transitioned the Department of Computer Science & Engineering to the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, elevating the status of CSE within the University and linking us in perpetuity with the internationally renowned investor, philanthropist and computing pioneer. Once it is fully funded, the $50 million Allen School endowment ($40 million from Mr. Allen and $10 million from Microsoft) will provide seed funding to catalyze new initiatives in education and research, keeping CSE at the forefront to the benefit of students and the region. Importantly, though, it does not fund the new building, nor does it fund enrollment growth. State support is essential!

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Continued expansion of CSE (as well as growth in other fields of Engineering) is an essential investment in *opportunity for Washington's students* and in *the growth of Washington's innovation economy*