UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

INNOVATION IMPERATIVE

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INNOVATION IMPERATIVE

STRENGTHENING THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM TO EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS, OUR FACULTY AND OUR REGION

There is a direct cause and effect relationship between the University of Washington's decades-long pursuit of innovation and discovery and the Puget Sound's rise as one of America's fastest growing and most technologically savvy regions. Every major innovation economy in our nation and in the world is anchored by one or more great research-intensive universities and Seattle is no exception. And while the impact of UW research is quantifiable — a $1.4 billion industry that serves our region and the world — our nurturing of innovation and creativity in our students provides even greater impact. Whatever path they choose, UW students learn to take risks, to fail, to discover, to create. And most remain in Washington after they graduate to start or to staff our leading and emerging companies.

The UW Innovation Imperative is an integrated plan to build upon and accelerate this long tradition of innovation and drive positive change for our state and beyond. The Innovation Imperative is an ambitious, multi-year strategy to transform and accelerate how the UW connects to the innovation ecosystem. There are three major pillars on which the Innovation Imperative stands:

1. GROW RESOURCES TO SCALE THE UW'S PROGRAMS

As an example, the UW is planning the construction of a new 130,000-square-foot building for our nationally ranked Computer Science & Engineering program that will allow the UW to double its production of degrees in this field and help fuel the region's burgeoning technology industry. This new building will help facilitate the growth of UW Computer Science & Engineering, which is a major contributor to the innovation ecosystem.

2. BUILD NEW EDUCATION MODELS TO BETTER CONNECT THE UW TO THE WORLD

As an example, the Global Innovation eXchange will couple top UW programs with industry and international universities in an immersive manner to address society's grand challenges, while significantly expanding degree capacity and training students in a new model of international learning, discovery and engagement.

3. DEVELOP STRONG LINKS TO THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND LARGER COMMUNITY

As examples, CoMotion, the UW's collaborative innovation hub, helps researchers, innovators, students, entrepreneurs and investors connect, supporting the growing innovation ecosystem in Seattle and the greater Puget Sound region. As well, the planned innovation-related revitalization of Seattle's University District will attract entrepreneurs, major employers and diverse residents.