

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5636**

Chapter 321, Laws of 2011

62nd Legislature  
2011 Regular Session

UNIVERSITY CENTER OF NORTH PUGET SOUND

EFFECTIVE DATE: Contingent

Passed by the Senate April 21, 2011  
YEAS 38 NAYS 10

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 9, 2011  
YEAS 66 NAYS 31

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Approved May 12, 2011, 1:43 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5636** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

THOMAS HOEMANN

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**Secretary**

FILED

May 13, 2011

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5636**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2011 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Harper, Shin, and Delvin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/11.

1            AN ACT Relating to expanding opportunities in higher education in  
2 north Puget Sound; amending RCW 28B.50.795; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28B.30 RCW; repealing RCW 28B.50.901; and providing a  
4 contingent effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.30 RCW  
7 to read as follows:

8            (1) The legislature finds that access to baccalaureate and graduate  
9 degree programs continues to be limited for residents of north  
10 Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties. Studies conducted by the state  
11 board for community and technical colleges, the higher education  
12 coordinating board, and the council of presidents confirm that  
13 enrollment in higher education compared to demand in this geographic  
14 region lags behind enrollment in other parts of the state, particularly  
15 for upper-division courses leading to advanced degrees.

16            (2) The legislature also finds that access to high employer demand  
17 programs of study is imperative for the state's global competitiveness  
18 and economic prosperity, particularly those degrees in the science,  
19 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields that align with

1 the workforce skill demands of the regional economy, that support the  
2 aerospace industry, and provide skilled undergraduate and  
3 graduate-degree engineers required by the largest employers in the  
4 aerospace industry cluster.

5 (3) The legislature finds that meeting the long-range goal of  
6 greatly expanded access for the population of the region to the widest  
7 array of baccalaureate and graduate programs can best be accomplished  
8 by assigning responsibility to a research university with multiple  
9 experiences in similar settings.

10 (4) Management and leadership of the University Center of North  
11 Puget Sound is assigned to Washington State University to meet the  
12 needs of the Everett metropolitan area and the north Snohomish, Island,  
13 and Skagit county region and the state of Washington for baccalaureate  
14 and graduate degrees offered by a state university. The chief  
15 executive officer of the University Center of North Puget Sound is the  
16 director who reports to the president of Washington State University.  
17 The director shall manage the activities and logistics of operating the  
18 center, make policy and planning recommendations to the council in  
19 subsection (5) of this section, and implement decisions of the council.

20 (5)(a) Washington State University and Everett Community College  
21 must collaborate with community leaders, and other four-year  
22 institutions of higher education that offer programs at the University  
23 Center of North Puget Sound to serve the varied interests of students  
24 in the region. To this end, a coordinating and planning council must  
25 be established to be responsible for long-range and strategic planning,  
26 interinstitutional collaboration, collaboration with the community  
27 served, and dispute resolution for the center. The following  
28 individuals shall comprise the coordinating and planning council:

29 (i) The president of Washington State University, or his or her  
30 designee;

31 (ii) The provost of Washington State University, or his or her  
32 designee;

33 (iii) The president of Everett Community College;

34 (iv) Two representatives of two other institutions of higher  
35 education that offer baccalaureate or graduate degree programs at the  
36 center;

37 (v) A student enrolled at the University Center of North Puget  
38 Sound appointed by the coordinating and planning council;

1 (vi) The director of the council, as the nonvoting chair;

2 (vii) A community leader appointed by the president of Everett  
3 Community College; and

4 (viii) A community leader appointed by the mayor of Everett.

5 (b) The coordinating and planning council may appoint other groups,  
6 as appropriate, to advise on administration and operations, and may  
7 alter its own composition by agreement of all the members.

8 (6)(a) Washington State University shall assume leadership of the  
9 center upon completion and approval by the legislature as provided  
10 under (d) of this subsection of a strategic plan for meeting the  
11 academic needs of the region and successful establishment of an  
12 engineering degree program. The strategic plan must build on the  
13 strengths of the institutions, reflecting each institution's mission,  
14 in order to provide the region with the highest standard of educational  
15 programs, research, and service to the community. The strategic plan  
16 must include a multibiennium budget that addresses both operating and  
17 capital expenses required to effectively implement the plan. The  
18 strategic plan shall be developed with the collaboration of the  
19 University Center at Everett Community College and all the institutions  
20 of higher education that provide baccalaureate degrees at the  
21 University Center, and community leaders.

22 (b) Center partners must implement the strategic plan with careful  
23 attention to the academic and professional standards established and  
24 maintained by each institution and by the appropriate accrediting  
25 bodies, and to the historic role of each institution's governing board  
26 in setting policy.

27 (c) The strategic plan must address expansion of the range and  
28 depth of educational opportunities in the region and include strategies  
29 that:

30 (i) Build upon baccalaureate and graduate degree offerings at the  
31 center;

32 (ii) Meet projected student enrollment demands for baccalaureate,  
33 graduate, and certificate programs in the region;

34 (iii) Meet employers' needs for skilled workers by expanding high  
35 employer demand programs of study as defined in RCW 28B.50.030, with an  
36 initial and ongoing emphasis by Washington State University on  
37 undergraduate and graduate science, technology, mathematics, and

1 engineering degree programs, including a variety of engineering  
2 disciplines such as civil, mechanical, aeronautical, and aerospace  
3 manufacturing;

4 (iv) Coordinate delivery of lower and upper division courses to  
5 maximize student opportunities and resources; and

6 (v) Transfer budget support and resources for the center from  
7 Everett Community College to Washington State University.

8 (d) The strategic plan must be completed by December 1, 2012, and  
9 submitted to the legislature for review. The strategic plan shall be  
10 considered approved if the legislature does not take further action on  
11 the strategic plan during the 2013 legislative session. The transfer  
12 of the responsibility for the management and operation of the  
13 University Center of North Puget Sound to Washington State University  
14 must occur by July 1, 2014.

15 (7)(a) Academic programming and delivery at the center must be  
16 developed in accordance with the missions of Washington State  
17 University, Everett Community College, and other institutions of higher  
18 education that have a presence at the center.

19 (b) Each institution shall abide by the guidelines for university  
20 centers adopted by the higher education coordinating board.

21 (c) Each institution shall award all degrees and certificates  
22 granted in the programs it delivers at the center.

23 (d) The coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this  
24 section shall establish a process for prioritizing new programs and  
25 revising existing programs that facilitates timeliness of new  
26 offerings, recognizes the internal processes of the proposing  
27 institutions, and addresses each proposal's fit with the needs of the  
28 region.

29 (8)(a) Washington State University shall review center expansion  
30 needs and consider capital facilities funding at least annually.  
31 Washington State University and Everett Community College must  
32 cooperate in preparing funding requests and bond financing for  
33 submission to the legislature on behalf of development at the center,  
34 in accordance with each institution's process and priorities for  
35 advancing legislative requests.

36 (b) Washington State University shall design, construct, and manage  
37 any facility developed at the center. Any facility developed at the  
38 center with Everett Community College capital funding must be designed

1 by Everett Community College in consultation with Washington State  
2 University. Building construction may be managed by Washington State  
3 University via an interagency agreement which details responsibility  
4 and associated costs. Building operations and management for all  
5 facilities at the center must be governed by the infrastructure and  
6 operating cost allocation method described in subsection (9) of this  
7 section.

8 (9) Washington State University has responsibility for  
9 infrastructure development and maintenance for the center. All  
10 infrastructure operating and maintenance costs are to be shared in what  
11 is deemed to be an equitable and fair manner based on space allocation,  
12 special cost, and other relevant considerations. Washington State  
13 University may make infrastructure development and maintenance  
14 decisions in consultation with the council described in subsection (5)  
15 of this section.

16 (10) In the event that conflict cannot be resolved through the  
17 coordinating council described in subsection (5) of this section the  
18 higher education coordinating board dispute resolution must be  
19 employed.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.795 and 2010 1st sp.s. c 25 s 1 are each  
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (1) ~~((RCW — 28B.50.901 — assigns — responsibility — for — the — north~~  
23 ~~Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties' higher education consortium to~~  
24 ~~Everett Community College. In April of 2009, Everett Community College~~  
25 ~~opened Gray Wolf Hall, the new home of the University Center of North~~  
26 ~~Puget Sound. The University Center currently offers over twenty~~  
27 ~~bachelor's and master's degrees from six partner universities.~~

28 ~~(2))~~ Although Everett Community College offers an associate degree  
29 nursing program that graduates approximately seventy to ninety students  
30 per year, the University Center does not offer a bachelor of science in  
31 nursing. Some graduates of the Everett Community College program are  
32 able to articulate to the bachelor of science in nursing program  
33 offered by the University of Washington-Bothell at its Bothell campus  
34 or in Mt. Vernon but current capacity is not sufficient for all of the  
35 graduates who are both interested and qualified.

36 ~~((3))~~ (2) Despite recent growth in nursing education capacity,  
37 shortages still persist for registered nurses. According to a June

1 2007 study by the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho  
2 center for health workforce studies, the average age of Washington's  
3 registered nurses was forty-eight years. More than a third were fifty-  
4 five years of age or older. Consequently, the high rate of registered  
5 nurses retiring from nursing practice over the next two decades will  
6 significantly reduce the supply. This reduction comes at the same time  
7 as the state's population grows and ages. The registered nurse  
8 education capacity in Washington has a large impact on the supply of  
9 registered nurses in the state. If the rate of graduation in  
10 registered nursing does not increase, projections show that supply in  
11 Washington will begin to decline by 2015. In contrast, if graduation  
12 rates increased by four hundred per year, the supply of registered  
13 nurses would meet estimated demand by the year 2021.

14 ~~((4))~~ (3) Subject to specific funding to support up to fifty  
15 full-time equivalent students in a bachelor of nursing program, the  
16 University Center ~~((at Everett Community College))~~ of North Puget  
17 Sound, in partnership with the University of Washington-Bothell, shall  
18 offer a bachelor of science in nursing program with capacity for up to  
19 fifty full-time students.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) This act takes effect only after the  
21 higher education coordinating board determines whether a needs  
22 assessment and analysis is required and, if so, conducts a needs  
23 assessment and viability determination under RCW 28B.76.230 and  
24 recommends that the provisions in section 1 of this act occur.

25 (2) The higher education coordinating board must make a  
26 recommendation under subsection (1) of this section by July 1, 2012.

27 (3) The higher education coordinating board shall notify the office  
28 of financial management, the legislature, and the code reviser's office  
29 of the board's recommendations regarding the provisions in section 1 of  
30 this act.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. RCW 28B.50.901 (Regional higher education  
32 consortium management and leadership--Everett Community College--  
33 Educational plan) and 2005 c 258 s 13 are each repealed.

Passed by the Senate April 21, 2011.

Passed by the House April 9, 2011.

Approved by the Governor May 12, 2011.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 13, 2011.