

Increase Higher Education Access

1
2
3 **WHEREAS** higher education is essential to the prosperity and safety of our nation;
4

5 **WHEREAS** the cost of higher education has skyrocketed several folds over inflation for
6 the past two decades putting such education out of reach for many qualified and
7 deserving people; and
8

9 **WHEREAS** people are burdened with enormous college debt with no end in sight;
10

11 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party call upon
12 the Governor Christine Gregoire and the Democratic members of the Washington State
13 Legislature to lower student loan costs by placing ceilings on the interest charged;
14

15 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon these policy-makers to
16 forgive student loans through voluntary student participation in national public
17 services such as military, Peace Corps, Teach America, public school teaching;
18

19 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the initial cost of a college education
20 can be lowered by mandating that all colleges (public, private) apply a set annual
21 percentage of their endowments toward student tuition and fees or face losing their not
22 for profit status and be taxed; and
23

24 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call upon Governor Gregoire and
25 the Washington State Legislature to make college education more affordable by
26 reinstating federal grants and extending Opportunity Grants to lower and middle
27 income Americans.
28

29
30 Submitted by the Benton County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
31 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/3/2008)
32

33 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
34 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.
35

36 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
37 2008 meeting in Spokane.