BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RISE):

Funds allocated by the state through the operating budget of Eastern Washington University have enabled Eastern to support the start-up costs for the RISE program in FY08 to ensure the equivalency of the educational experience of the RISE students to that of their classmates at the University of Washington, School of Dentistry, which is the institution granting the doctoral degree.

In FY08, funds were used to hire staff and to procure equipment, instructional resources, distance learning and simulcast equipment to access the expertise of educators at the University of Washington, School of Dentistry. Eastern purchased digital radiographic and other state-of-the-art dental diagnostic equipment that will prepare the RISE students to go out on rotations serving the underserved communities of eastern Washington. The following positions were filled in the RISE program: Program Director; Operations Manager; IT Specialist; and Dental Laboratory Technologist. In 2009, faculty will be added to the existing positions in the program. Some are coming from other departments within the university (Biology, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy), and others, due to their unique areas of expertise, will come from the local community of practitioners. Still others with unique expertise will be traveling on a regular basis to the Riverpoint campus from Seattle (UW) and Pullman (WSU).

A diverse group of eight students, all of whom are passionate regarding outreach opportunities in eastern Washington, were admitted to the RISE program for Fall 2008. This represents the current capacity of the program. The stated purpose of the program is to place these students, who are committed to eastern Washington, in underserved locations during their pre-doctoral years. RISE students will participate in community service opportunities during their rotations in the final three years of their pre-doctoral education. RISE is part of an inter-professional agenda which combines UW medical and dental students in classrooms and clinical situations together and remains an important focus of the program. The RISE program is making historical inroads by providing collaborative dental education in the state of Washington and by providing underserved eastern Washington communities with dental health care.

Funding: $501,000 in FY08 and $520,000 in FY09