



# Viewpoint

FALL 2014

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER

## THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IN EASTERN WASHINGTON

*WPC celebrates five years  
East of the Cascades*

  
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IN OUR FALL ISSUE

**Medicaid expansion is a bad deal for state taxpayers**

**Is Washington's high minimum wage to blame  
for our education funding problems?**

**The crucial—and unanswered—  
climate-change question**

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# Viewpoint

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER

FALL 2014

Dear Friends,

As the holiday season approaches, all of us at Washington Policy Center thank you for your generous support of our work. 2014 was a landmark year for us and it would not have been possible without your investment.

This year, Washington Policy Center experienced tremendous success in the work of our six research centers. And with the year winding to a close, it's time to exhale and take a moment to reflect on a few examples of our impact.

Our Center for Education was integral in seeing the very first public charter school open its doors in our state this year after several years of work to set a foundation for the issue and being involved with the implementation through our Initiative 1240 Charter School Follow up Project.

Our Center for Transportation had a huge impact this year as voters in King County rejected Metro's Proposition 1, saving taxpayers in the county over \$1.5 billion over 10 years. And we didn't stop there. As a result of our continued work, King County canceled plans to cut bus service for 2015, preserving 95 percent of all Metro bus service in the county.

Our Center for Health Care director has been invited to testify before Congress three times on the Affordable Care Act over the last 12 months!

We celebrated five years in Eastern Washington this year and held our first-ever standalone Annual Dinner event in Spokane that drew over 650 friends to Spokane to hear from former Congressman J.C. Watts and Forbes columnist Amity Shlaes. Our Annual Dinner events in Bellevue featured former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Emmy-award-winning investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson. Our main event gathered over 1,200 attendees and our Young Professionals event brought together over 300 young professionals and college students.

As 2014 draws to a close, we are even more excited for the coming year. Much of the success of the last four years has been pioneered by our outgoing Chairman, Greg Porter. This year marks the end of his board chairmanship and you will hear from him on Page 4.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Viewpoint and find the news and analysis valuable and informative. We appreciate all of your support this year and wish you a joyous holiday season.

Very truly yours,



Dann Mead  
Smith  
President



*Viewpoint* is the quarterly magazine of Washington Policy Center, an independent Washington state-focused think tank.

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Above: Dr. Gates receiving a standing ovation as he addresses the Annual Dinner event in Bellevue.

# A letter from outgoing WPC Board Chairman Greg Porter



When I became Chairman of Washington Policy Center eight years ago, I would introduce myself as “Greg Porter, Chairman of Washington Policy Center.” Today my introduction shouts “Proud Chairman of Washington Policy Center.” What WPC has accomplished in recent years is nothing short of amazing, and I could not be more proud. We have been successful in virtually everything we have set our mind to accomplish.

We completed a \$4.2 million capital campaign to fund our research centers and hire research directors that are experts in their field. These centers have boards of advisors from the business community, academia and former elected officials. The policy work of these research centers is well respected by both liberals and conservatives as we educate elected officials, the media and the citizens of our great state. It is very difficult to argue with research that is unbiased, empirical and rooted in common sense. Our impact has touched every citizen in every corner of the state as we promoted charter schools, no state income tax, privatization of government services, no new taxes, transparency and we held government accountable on the transportation problems facing our state. The opening of our Eastern Washington offices in Spokane and Tri-Cities exemplifies our commitment to the entire state.

I am also proud of WPC’s national reach. Our director for the Center for Health Care, Dr. Roger Stark, has testified three times before the U.S. Congress on the Affordable Health Care Act just in the last 12 months. Todd Myers, our director for the Center for the Environment, is a columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*. We frequently appear in national news media outlets including *Forbes*, CNN, Fox News, CBS News and more. We are recognized amongst other state-based think tanks as one of the most successful in the country as others try to emulate the work we are doing.

These successes do not occur by accident. We have a board of directors that is stacked with some of the best minds in the state – the envy of even the best for-profit board. We have a strategic plan that guides us in every decision we make. The leadership and dedication of Dann Mead Smith, President and Paul Guppy, Vice President for Research, is outstanding to say the least. They have assembled a staff that is brilliant and committed to the work they are performing.



With our infrastructure, achieved successes and leadership we have the wind at our back. We are poised to take head-on the most important policy issues facing our state today and complete our strategic plan. As my term as Chairman comes to an end in December and Craig Williamson becomes the Chairman in 2015, I wish him the best and leave this leadership position as the proud Chairman of Washington Policy Center.

Greg Porter

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "G. Porter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Ways to support WPC

Now is the perfect time to consider your annual support or an additional gift to organizations that matter to you and your family.

*Your investment in Washington Policy Center makes a measurable difference in advancing free-market solutions in Washington State. Rest assured that every dollar of your support helps WPC continue to work on your behalf and share your values with lawmakers in Olympia and across the state. As always, your gift to WPC is 100% tax deductible. Please consider supporting WPC in one of these ways:*



**Give a gift via mail, online or over the phone.**

It's that simple! WPC's membership levels begin at \$50 per year with levels and benefits increasing from there.



**Become a monthly donor.**

Rest assured that you're part of the battle of ideas each month! Being a monthly donor is simple — we can either charge your credit card or directly debit your checking or savings account — and then we send you a tax receipt at the end of the year.

**Join the WPC Pillar Society.**

Launched in fall 2012, the Pillar Society distinguishes donors who make a substantial pledge (\$5,000 per year or higher) which is paid over three years. Along with the prestige of being a Pillar Society member, benefits include premier tables at our conferences and Annual Dinner (reserved before sell-out!), varying recognition throughout the year and invitations to private events such as our popular Palm Springs event.



**Give the gift of stock.**

Did you know WPC gladly accepts donations of stock? Giving stock is quick and easy and can also have great tax benefits for you. Please visit our website at [www.washingtonpolicy.org/donate](http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/donate) or ask your financial advisor for more details.



**Leave a lasting gift with WPC's Legacy Society.**

Invest in Washington's future and keep your hard-earned dollars from being taxed by the federal government. You can become a member of WPC's Legacy Society by including a gift to WPC in your will, living trust, retirement plan or life insurance.



**Give WPC memberships as gifts.**

New due to popular demand! Many of our members like to give the gift of WPC to their loved ones, especially students and young professionals. As you're aware, WPC membership comes with wonderful and educational benefits such as informative mailings and weekly emails with our current publications, invitations to events with key policymakers and thought leaders, and access to our in-depth website. For each \$100+ annual gift membership, WPC will send you a "starter packet" of information and one of WPC's three popular books to present the recipient.

Above all, **thank you** for your support. Please contact WPC's Development Director Stephanie True at 206-937-9691 or [strue@washingtonpolicy.org](mailto:strue@washingtonpolicy.org) to discuss any of our giving options.

Great policies  
start with great ideas.

# SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

WASHINGTON POLICY CENTER'S STATEWIDE POLICY CONFERENCE

2015

Join Washington Policy Center for our annual Solutions Summit Policy Conferences coming this January 2015 in Bellevue and Tri-Cities before the beginning of the important 2015 Legislative Session. Both half-day conferences will include a keynote breakfast and lunch program. Each conference will feature national and local policy experts and policy-makers covering:

*Education Environment Government Reform Health Care Small Business Transportation*



## Eastern Washington

Tuesday, January 6th, 2015

7:30 am - 1:30 pm

3 Rivers Convention Center

*Featuring a special tribute to retiring Congressman Doc Hastings.*

## Western Washington

Wednesday, January 7th, 2015

7:30 am - 1:30 pm

Hyatt Regency Bellevue

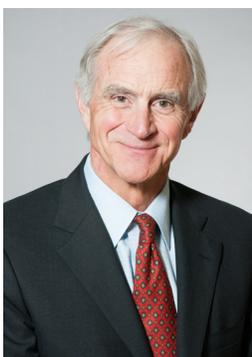
**Learn more and register by visiting [www.washingtonpolicy.org/events](http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/events)**

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Stephanie True: (206) 937-9691 or [strue@washingtonpolicy.org](mailto:strue@washingtonpolicy.org).

# Medicaid expansion is a bad deal for state taxpayers

by Roger Stark, MD, FACS  
WPC Health Policy Analyst

*This Opinion/Editorial was featured in The Puget Sound Business Journal on September 19, 2014.*



Public money spent on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or Obamacare, goes primarily to two programs – the Medicaid expansion in states that accept it and the taxpayer subsidies given to people in the health insurance exchanges. The Supreme Court ruled in 2012 that states can decide

whether or not to expand their own Medicaid program.

The incentive for a state to accept the expanded Medicaid program is the federal government’s offer to pay 100 percent of the expanded costs for the first three years, then cut its contribution over three years to 90 percent of the expanded costs. This is in contrast to the traditional Medicaid program in which the federal government and the state share the costs more or less equally. To date, 26 states, including Washington, have accepted the expanded Medicaid program under the ACA.

Washington’s legislature did not hold a recorded vote on whether to expand the Medicaid program. Instead it was added as a line-item in the 2013-2015 budget, passed and signed by Governor Inslee.

Expansion supporters said several existing Washington state health care programs could be rolled into the Medicaid expansion, thus shifting the cost to the federal government. The total cost of the expanded Medicaid in 2013-2015 is \$351 million.

State officials say 285,275 people have enrolled in the expanded Medicaid program as of April. An additional 138,000 people who were eligible but not enrolled in the traditional Medicaid also signed up. These additional “welcome mat” people were expected because of the large Medicaid advertisement campaign.

Based on 2012 costs, the “welcome mat” enrollees will cost Washington taxpayers an additional \$383 million per year. The total cost of the expanded Medicaid program will be \$791 million per year, with Washington taxpayers ultimately responsible for ten percent, or \$79 million, per year in 2012-dollars. So Washington state taxpayers will see an added cost of an additional \$462 million (\$383 million plus \$79 million) per year because of the Medicaid expansion.

Even though legislators sought \$351 million from the federal government, state taxpayers will be forced to pay an additional \$462 million because of the expansion. At best, this cost may represent an additional \$111 million (\$462 million minus \$351 million) in new state taxes.

The distinction between federal money and state money is misleading, because Washington state taxpayers are also federal taxpayers. So even though the federal government pays 100 or 90 percent of new costs, any expansion of Medicaid in Washington state must ultimately be paid by state taxpayers.

The moral tragedy is that Medicaid is low-quality health insurance. Proponents say that at least enrollees have coverage, yet it is unfair to force millions of Americans into a poor insurance plan. Many studies, including the high-quality study from Oregon, show Medicaid is no better than not being insured, and in many cases it’s worse.

Supporters of Medicaid argue that Medicaid patients are sicker than other patients. The Oregon study, however, compared thousands of patients with similar health and socio-economic backgrounds. The researchers found the uninsured actually did better clinically than those in Medicaid.

Medicaid backers say expanding entitlements grows the economy, not realizing that all public money has to be taken out of the private sector first. It is unclear how increasing taxes or borrowing against future generations increases the financial well-being for states and the nation.

Welfare reform was accomplished in the late 1990s with tremendous success. Medicaid reform should be handled the same way. It should be a temporary insurance plan with the goal of transitioning enrollees into the private market. Elected officials in Washington state owe our most vulnerable citizens and our taxpayers a real debate on expanding the Medicaid entitlement.



# Is Washington's high minimum wage to blame for our education funding problems?

by Erin Shannon, Director,  
Center for Small Business

This Opinion/Editorial was featured in The Puget Sound Business Journal on November 7, 2014.



What do Washington state's high minimum wage and education funding have to do with each other? According to Governor Inslee, the two seemingly unrelated issues are closely linked.

In a new twist, Governor Inslee is blaming the state's alleged failure to fund education to meet the state

Supreme Court's *McCleary* decision on too many workers earning the state's highest-in-the-nation minimum wage of \$9.32 an hour.

According to the Governor's reasoning, the lack of "real wages" means workers don't have enough money to spend, which means the state takes in fewer sales tax dollars, which means less money for education:

*"In the lower quartile, the lower income group, their wages are not keeping pace with inflation...and as a result we're having a reduction in sales tax revenue relative to the growth in the economy..."*

*... lower income earners can't be healthy consumers and that's affecting our revenue base which affects our ability to fund the school system and the McCleary decision that we have."*

Beyond the disturbing idea that the Governor wants workers to earn more so he can extract more taxes from them, there are several problems with this economic theory.

First, contrary to the Governor's belief that low-income wages "are not keeping pace with inflation," Washington's minimum wage is specifically designed to rise with inflation. Since 1998 state law has added a cost-of-living adjustment increase to the minimum wage every January based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Accordingly, the state minimum wage will increase to \$9.47 in 2015. Some claim that even though Washington ties minimum wage increases to inflation, it is still too low. They point to the fact that the \$1.60 minimum wage in 1968 bought more than the

adjusted minimum wage does now. They argue the minimum wage should be closer to \$11.00 an hour.

But 1968 was a banner year when the buying power of the minimum wage was at its absolute highest. That's cherry picking. What's more, the CPI-W is widely believed to overstate true inflation. Most economists say the most accurate measures of inflation are the Chained CPI, CPI Research Series or the Personal Consumption Expenditure Deflator. These inflation measures show the 1968 minimum wage would be between \$8.50 and \$9.22 today, less than today's real-world minimum wage.

Choosing a different base year yields a different picture. If the minimum wage had tracked with inflation since it started in 1938 it would be around \$4.20 today.

The second problem is Governor Inslee's thinking that increasing the state's minimum wage would allow low-income workers to "help the economy by being consumers." Less than 3% of workers earn the minimum wage, so raising their wages slightly would have almost no effect on consumer spending and state revenues.

More broadly, research shows that increasing the minimum wage does not spur any notable increase in consumer spending. It does, however, increase the cost of living for everyone. Faced with the minimum wage mandate, most business owners increase prices before reducing their workforce.

Even if workers did spend that extra money "being consumers," that would not translate into extra revenue to state coffers. The mandated wage hike is not free money, plucked from a magic dollar tree and handed to workers. It is forcibly extracted from employers (who now have less to spend on expanding their businesses) and redistributed to workers. Any extra earnings are not new money suddenly injected into the economy and taxed by the state. It is money that is already in the economy and taxed by the state; the minimum wage law is just shifting it to different people.

Governor Inslee says he will push for an even higher minimum wage when the legislature meets in January, as part of increasing revenues for *McCleary*. But Washington has already had the highest minimum wage of any state for 15 years, and it hasn't kept the supreme court from ruling that the budgets signed by him and former Governor Gregoire have shorted education. This experience indicates an even higher minimum wage won't generate enough funding to satisfy the Court. It would, however, have a negative impact on inflation and economic growth, which the Governor will not want to brag about.

\$15 Now! is the battle cry of activists in Seattle. A more accurate slogan would be, "It sounds good, but it's not good for workers." 

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



*These Opinion/Editorial columns were featured in The Wall Street Journal in October 2014.*

## Give consumers more control over energy use

*by Todd Myers, Director, Center for Environment*

Officials who make energy policy should keep one maxim in mind: One size does not fit all. The best energy policies encourage a diversity of approaches, allowing the consumer's intelligence and information to find ways to use electricity more efficiently.

One approach would be to upgrade our electrical system, improving the information flow and allowing consumers more control over when and how they use energy. The term "smart grid" refers to a range of improvements in our electrical system, but simply providing real-time control and feedback to energy consumers is one important part of that upgrade.

Giving consumers more control would allow them to reduce energy use by giving clear signals about the cost. Even if overall energy use didn't decline, showing consumers the times when costs are high would allow them to move their optional energy use, avoiding peak costs and demand.

This one policy would not change the world, but it would give consumers a sense of control over the electricity they use and the price they pay for it. In many places, prices are set by regulators and utilities, and consumers are largely left out of the discussion. Giving consumers control puts them back in charge.

In a smartphone age, there is no reason consumers can't be given more control in such an important area of energy use. 

## The crucial—and unanswered—climate-change question

*by Todd Myers, Director, Center for Environment*

Is climate change catastrophic or a hoax? Neither.

Ironically, people on both sides of the climate debate seem to agree that the central question of climate policy is whether humans are causing climate change at all.

Those who believe humans are causing climate change often argue that simple fact justifies massive government expenditures, regulation and efforts to control people's lives. Ironically, those who believe humans are not causing climate change worry that if they admit any human impact on climate, it would encourage a runaway expansion of government.

Rather than breathing a sigh of relief at the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finding temperatures will not rise as much as previously thought, many argue climate change is worse than ever. Instead of quoting the IPCC's projection of 18 inches of sea level rise over the next century, we often hear predictions of three or even 10 feet of increase. And every regional drought, rainstorm, hurricane or other bout of unusual weather is cited as "evidence" of climate change, no matter what the IPCC's own scientific estimates say.

The real debate, however, is over how much impact we humans have on the climate. We understand that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> prevents some solar energy from returning to space, increasing the energy trapped in the atmosphere. What we don't understand, however, is how much that additional CO<sub>2</sub> impacts the global climate.

This is the far more important question when trying to develop responsible policies to address energy and carbon emissions.

A responsible climate policy can admit that humans have an impact on climate, while recognizing that the free market and personal choice is the best way to address that concern. 



# The Road to Success in Eastern Washington

## CELEBRATING 5 YEARS EAST OF THE CASCADES

With numerous accomplishments in tow, impressive growth and an eye toward the future, this year Washington Policy Center celebrates the fifth anniversary of its Eastern Washington office.

In the late fall and winter of 2009, WPC expanded its efforts in Eastern Washington by opening an office in Spokane and the Tri-Cities, and hiring former TV news producer Chris Cargill to lead its efforts. Five years later, the little startup office that could has turned into a power player in the region.

"When I reflect on where we started and where we are now, it's hard to believe how far we have come in just five years." WPC President Dann Mead Smith said.

Since WPC opened its Eastern Washington offices, the number of WPC supporters in the region has more than tripled. WPC's efforts are now regularly featured in local media and its events are some of the largest in Eastern Washington. Collectively, more than 7,000 people have attended WPC events in Eastern Washington since 2009. WPC's Annual Dinner – originally held only in Western Washington – was expanded to Eastern Washington in 2010 and has since grown to one of the largest gala events in the region, attracting more than 650 people in 2014.

WPC is also committed to keeping Eastern Washington involved in the legislative process. Since 2011, WPC has held weekly legislative Wake-Up Forums throughout Eastern Washington during the legislative session, giving citizens in different cities the opportunity to question lawmakers via video conference. The forums were the catalyst for the upcoming trial run of remote testimony during the 2015 legislative session in the state Senate. *The Walla*



*Walla Union Bulletin* said WPC's idea "made a great deal of sense."

"I've had a good experience with Washington Policy Center," explained State Representative Timm Ormsby of Spokane, who is a frequent Wake-Up Forum guest. "I've been invited to participate in several events, which I've appreciated. I think that exchange is what is really necessary to get good public policy."

WPC's half-day policy conference - the Solutions Summit - is now held in the Tri-Cities. The event draws policy-makers, business leaders and citizens from across the Mid-Columbia. The 2013 Solutions Summit was covered extensively in the Tri-Cities, appearing more than 30 times in local radio and television stories, as well as significant coverage in *The Tri-City Herald* and *Sunnyside Daily News*.

In fact, no other public policy or research organization has an Eastern Washington media presence like Washington Policy Center. WPC's ideas and policy research have been the focus of an impressive 2,000+ radio, television, newspaper and online media stories in Eastern Washington since the office opened. WPC researchers are heard weekly on radio and television stations across Eastern Washington.

Furthering its commitment to Eastern Washington, WPC relocated its Center for Government Reform and director Jason Mercier to the Tri-Cities in 2013.

Aboard the Washington Policy Center vehicle 'WPC One,' staff and researchers travel to different communities nearly every week to deliver accurate, authoritative and high quality research. Since the office

## EASTERN WASHINGTON BY THE NUMBERS...

WPC STAFF HAS TRAVELLED MORE THAN  
**120,000** MILES  
AROUND EASTERN WASHINGTON

SPOKEN TO NEARLY **300** GROUPS  
IN COMMUNITIES INCLUDING WENATCHEE,  
OMAK, BREWSTER, COLVILLE, CLARKSTON,  
CHELAN, ELLENSBURG AND MANY MORE

opened in late 2009, WPC staff has travelled more than 120,000 miles around Eastern Washington and has addressed nearly 300 groups in communities including Wenatchee, Omak, Brewster, Colville, Clarkston, Chelan, Ellensburg and many more.

“Washington Policy Center provides accurate, up-to-date information on the issues of the day, and I continue to value their great work,” said Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who works closely with WPC and has participated in WPC events in Eastern Washington.

Equally impressive is the impact Washington Policy Center is having east of the Cascades. The organization has proved it is a force thanks to its efforts to educate both voters and lawmakers.

In 2010, WPC research pointed out the shortcomings of an effort to increase property taxes in Spokane to fund a new program that aimed to reduce the local school dropout rate. When voters were informed the program had not worked in other states, they rejected the measure.

In 2011, the citizens of the Tri-Cities were shocked to learn Ben Franklin Transit’s operating expenses had increased more than 140%. WPC’s *Key Facts about Ben Franklin Transit* publication was the lead story on nearly every local TV newscast when it was released.

Also in 2011, WPC’s research on Spokane’s new five-tier water price structure led to a major community discussion on TV and radio, as well as a “Water Rates Soak Families” *Spokesman-Review* editorial. Feeling the pressure, lawmakers proposed a pricing change within weeks.

In 2012, WPC warned a new “impact fee” being proposed in the Pasco School District would not only fail to solve the district’s overcrowding issues but would discourage people from moving there. Just months after the fees were put into place, housing starts plummeted, harming the potential growth of the economy and tax base of Pasco.

In 2013, voters in both Spokane and Yakima approved a WPC recommendation – a local supermajority



WPC’s Chris Cargill meeting with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, who gave the Republican Response to the State of the Union last year.



One of the many WPC Wake-Up Forums connecting citizens in Eastern Washington to Olympia.

requirement to increase taxes. Now, other Eastern Washington cities are considering adopting the requirement, which has been approved by voters five times at the state level.

“I want to thank everyone who has played a part in our success in Eastern Washington,” said Eastern Washington director Chris Cargill. “The first five years have been impressive, but we’re just getting started.”



HOSTED ONE OF THE LARGEST GALA EVENTS IN THE REGION, ATTRACTING

MORE THAN **650** PEOPLE IN 2014

**2,000+** RADIO, TELEVISION, NEWSPAPER AND ONLINE MEDIA STORIES IN EASTERN WASHINGTON SINCE THE OFFICE OPENED



# A Night to remember...

## Annual Dinner 2014

Washington Policy Center's Annual Dinner has long been recognized as the state's dinner party of the year, drawing thousands of guests from across the state each fall. This year, in honor of the five-year anniversary of our Eastern Washington office and to accommodate the sell-out crowd the event attracts each year, we held three standalone Annual Dinner events. More than 650 joined us at the Spokane Convention Center in Eastern Washington; and 1,200 joined us at our Annual Dinner event in Bellevue at the Hyatt Regency as well as 300 college students and young professionals at our 2nd Annual Young Professionals Dinner event. With a combined total of over 2,200 guests from all over Washington, this year's Annual Dinner events were the largest to date and some of the largest of its kind in the country.

At our Eastern Washington Annual Dinner, we celebrated five years with hundreds of our friends from all over the region. The evening was emceed by KXLY's (Spokane's ABC affiliate) Robyn Nance. Recognized at the gala event were WPC's 2014 Champion of Freedom Award recipient Dr. Shelley Redinger, Superintendent of Spokane Public Schools; and our 2014 Jennifer Dunn Thomson Scholarship recipient Stephanie George, a student at Washington State University.

Keynoting the Dinner were two distinguished thought leaders, former Oklahoma Congressman J.C. Watts,



Honorable J.C. Watts gave a moving address at the Eastern Washington Annual Dinner in Spokane.



Sharyl Attkisson addresses the Bellevue Annual Dinner.

introduced by WPC board member Hon. George Nethercutt and *Forbes* columnist & *New York Times* best-selling author Amity Shlaes, who was introduced by Tri-City Chamber of Commerce President Lori Mattson.

As Congressman Watts took the stage, he said "Good public policy is tough. Somebody has to think through these issues. And so I appreciate Washington Policy Center, an organization that gives serious thought to how to move the state of Washington forward."

He went on to say "you're entitled to your own opinions, but you're not entitled to your own facts. That's why Washington Policy Center is so vital... because it's driven by facts."

Shlaes began her remarks by telling the attendees that "it is not only stunning but amazing to see the commitment of this group [WPC] to policy changes..."

In Bellevue a week later, the 1,500 guests in the main ballroom and the Young Professionals event, were honored to have former Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates and Emmy-award-winning investigative journalist Sharyl Attkisson as our keynote speakers. Olivia Lippens, former CEO of Clearwater Channel Outdoors, emceed in the main ballroom and State Rep. Hans Zeiger emceed the Young Professionals ballroom.

Dr. Gates serves as the current President of the Boy Scouts of America, and former President Wayne Perry introduced Dr. Gates as WPC presented him with our 2014 Columbia Award. During his keynote address, Dr. Gates shared his perspective on the conflicts we are facing around the world.

WPC Pillar Society member Patty Edwards took the stage to introduce Sharyl Attkisson, five-time Emmy-award winner and author of the recent book *Stonewalled: My Fight for Truth Against the Forces of*

*Obstruction, Intimidation and Harassment in Obama's Washington.* Attkisson spoke about how the federal bureaucracy has become America's ruling class, and how the bureaucracy has far outgrown, in terms of size and influence, the public's ability to control it.

Over in the Young Professionals gala event, the 250 college students and young professionals were fortunate

to hear from U.S. Senator Marco Rubio by way of video. Sen. Rubio remarked "WPC is one of our nation's greatest state-level think tanks...think tanks play such

an important role by providing important research to legislators like me, to develop our ideas in ways that can really make a difference to improve people's lives."

He went on to encourage young people to voice their opinions, saying "...one way to do this is to be actively involved in Washington Policy Center and their Young Professionals group."

The group also heard from both keynote speakers in person and had the opportunity to ask questions. Dr. Gates encouraged the young people in the room, saying "I hope that as young professionals you will consider at some point in your life, public service. As someone once said, public service need not be a career, but it is a way of life."

Attkisson also challenged the attendees as young people to "be smart and look at different resources. Don't just trust what you are being spoon-fed by the media."

Overall, our statewide Annual Dinner events were an overwhelming success, attracting more guests than in any previous year. We appreciate all of the support that makes what we do at WPC possible and the money raised at our events will help us to continue to impact our state on key policy issues and to educate more citizens. A special thank you to our 2014 Annual Dinner Committee, event chairs John & Molly Otter and all of our table sponsors.



Dr. Robert Gates receives a standing ovation at the Bellevue Annual Dinner.



Dr. Robert Gates answers questions at the YP Annual Dinner.



Dr. Shelley Redinger receives WPC's Champion of Freedom award.

From the Twitterfeed:

"FABULOUS and informative evening. #WAPolicyAD"...

"Great speaker, Dr. Gates! Served Presidents Bush and Obama. First priority: our troops!"

"Former Congressman JC Watts speaking at the #EWAPolicyAD. 'Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking..'"

"Dr. Gates with @HansZeiger at the YP #WAPolicyAD event with 300 college students and young professionals!?"

"Learning so much tonight at the #EWAPolicyAD."

"Enjoying #EWAPolicyAD with 700 others at Spokane Convention Center!"

"Smart, brilliant and funny! #JCWatts What a phenomenal speaker! #EWAPolicyAD"

"Thank you #WAPolicyAD for having @ Sharyl Attkisson share her urgent message..."

# Let's talk impact...

## This year WPC has been in the media an average of FIVE times per day!



### *Puget Sound Business Journal*

A record six opinion-editorials have been featured.

### **Fox News**

Erin Shannon was featured on a news segment on water quality regulation!

### *Forbes*

WPC's Roger Stark's opinion-editorial on Medicaid was featured online.



### **Local Radio**

WPC has been on the radio 270 times!

### **CNN**

WPC has been quoted in two separate articles online.



### *The Spokesman-Review*

WPC has been quoted or mentioned 19 times along with a featured opinion-editorial.

### *The Seattle Times*

Six opinion-editorials have run and WPC has been quoted or mentioned an additional 30 times in articles and columns.



### **CBS Morning News**

Todd Myers was featured on a segment about Seattle's new composting law.

### *The Olympian*

WPC has been quoted or mentioned 12 times and had two opinion-editorials.



### **Local Television**

WPC has been on the local news 110 times!



2014 year in review...

## Snapshots of WPC Young Professionals

This has been an exciting year for WPC YPs! Led by an active advisory board of 19 young professionals, WPC YPs created their own strategic plan with a goal to grow WPC's impact amongst this demographic. We held our most successful YP events to date this year including our statewide debates attended by over 500 college students and concerned citizens and our 2nd Annual YP Annual Dinner with over 250 in attendance! "With more structure and drive behind WPC Young Professionals program, we look forward to continued growth and exciting developments coming from this young and passionate group of future free-market leaders," commented WPC President Dann Mead Smith.

## Catching up with...

YP Advisory Board Chairman, Nathan Rimmer & WPC Young Professionals @UW Club Founder, Alec Kimble



Getting vision for the future of WPC as we chat with WPC's YP leader and college club founder.

### WPC: Why did you become involved with Washington Policy Center and WPC Young Professionals?

**NR:** *I was impressed with WPC's research-based approach to dealing with complex policy issues. WPC offers clarity when all too often policy decisions are clouded with catchphrases, hyperbole and special interests. When Dann approached me about joining the fledgling YP board, joining was an easy decision.*

### WPC: As you leave school and pursue your career, how has WPC and its Young Professionals group been most valuable to you?

**AK:** *WPC has helped me become a more informed and engaged citizen of Washington on both the local and state level. Reading the regular WPC print and digital publications or attending events and listening to the experts speak on a wide range of topics have all contributed immensely to my personal development in this regard.*

### WPC: What can this generation of young professionals expect to gain from being a part of this group?

**NR:** *There is a level of respect one earns when they have a firm handle on important policy matters. As young professionals, we will live with the consequences of today's policy decisions the longest, for better or for worse. Engaging with WPC helps ensure we make decisions that keep Washington a great place to live and do business.*

### WPC: What future impact do you see the WPC Young Professionals @UW club having?

**AK:** *I would like to see the club grow its presence on campus and become a core resource for ambitious students, across all fields of education, looking for an advantage as they prepare themselves for their careers here in Washington. WPC, Young Professionals and the University of Washington communities all stand to benefit from the continued growth of WPC's Young Professionals @ UW.*



2014 Jennifer Dunn scholarship recipient, Stephanie George



YP @ UW networking event



YP summer social



Minimum wage debates

YouTube

Washington Policy Center



**J.C. Watts**

"I appreciate Washington Policy Center, an organization that still gives serious thought to how to move the state of Washington forward."  
*Quote from his remarks to WPC Eastern Washington Annual Dinner*

Reply ·



**Sen. Mark Rubio**

"Each of you has the ability to help influence public policy."  
*Quote from Marco Rubio addressing WPC Young Professionals via video*

Reply ·



**Dr. Robert Gates**

"As someone once said, public service need not be a career, but it is a way of life."  
*Quote from his remarks to YP Annual Dinner*

Reply ·



Watch // Learn // Share: [www.youtube.com/WApolicy](http://www.youtube.com/WApolicy)