HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGREEMENT

The Partnership
Finding solutions to our most pressing issues in healthcare requires breaking down the traditional barriers in higher education and working together. Uniting Gonzaga University’s commitment to academic excellence, community service, and leadership development with the University of Washington’s nationally recognized medical school and research enterprises will have a transformative impact not only for our students and faculty, but for the entire Inland Northwest community.

Agreement Focus
There are two main parts to the agreement.

First, Gonzaga will partner with the UW School of Medicine to continue and expand medical education to students in Spokane. Under the supervision of an executive director, in conjunction with the Regional Vice Dean for UW School of Medicine, Gonzaga will provide dedicated educational space for the UW School of Medicine program in Spokane, and a range of services for UW medical students. GU faculty with relevant expertise will partner with UW faculty in the teaching of the Foundations Phase (first 18 months) of UW’s medical education program. Faculty will also have the opportunity to participate in region-wide curriculum development and the Spokane-based student admissions process.

Second, a broader UW-GU Regional Health Initiative will focus on the development of research; interdisciplinary health teaching and other joint educational and service opportunities in addition to a new facilities plan to support collaborative endeavors.

Innovative Curriculum
A new curriculum, pioneered by UW this school year, is a competency-based curriculum that features fewer lectures, more active learning in small groups, and a greater focus on the independent lifelong learning skills that students will need in a rapidly changing health care environment. Basic science training in this Foundations Phase is paired with a robust clinical skills training program. From the start of medical school, medical students spend one day every other week with a local primary care physician.
The Foundations Phase is offered at all WWAMI partner University sites (University of Washington Seattle and Spokane, University of Wyoming, University of Alaska/Anchorage, Montana State University and University of Idaho). Students remain at their university site for the entire 18 months prior to starting clinical rotations throughout the five-state region.

**Local Leadership**
A new executive director and Community Advisory Board will be established to coordinate the partnership and guide its development in collaboration with UW Medicine’s Spokane-based leadership.

**Funding**
The UW School of Medicine-Gonzaga University partnership will be funded via the services and affiliation agreement. The students will pay tuition and fees to the UW School of Medicine. The UW will reimburse Gonzaga University for any services and space provided in direct support of the UW School of Medicine/Gonzaga University partnership in Spokane. Unless specifically authorized by the Legislature and State, no state appropriated funds can or will go directly to Gonzaga University as part of this initiative.

**Location**
Initially, Gonzaga’s Schoenberg Center will be the dedicated space for the UW School of Medicine-Gonzaga University partnership. Additional clinical and lab facilities will be secured within the Spokane University District or nearby as needed.

**Regional Benefits**
This agreement will boost the health and prosperity of the region by generating significant positive economic and social impacts, including expanding medical education and graduating more doctors in Spokane and underserved rural areas, expanding opportunities for research and innovation, and ultimately improving the health of people throughout the region. It builds on the educational excellence of each institution in health sciences, namely the UW’s programs that prepare medical doctors, physician assistants, dentists, and GU’s programs in nursing, human physiology and undergraduate sciences.

It also builds on the universities’ strengths in fostering innovations in business and entrepreneurship, engineering and applied sciences.

Spokane has adopted a health care/biomedical economic development strategy and this alliance supports and advances that effort. It is expected that by 2030 the Spokane region will see $1.7 billion in annual economic impact generated by the expansion of medical education and related research activities. These efforts are projected to generate 9,000 new jobs in the Spokane region.