

**BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

Department Name: Student Publications

Create Date: 10/17/2023

Due Date: 11/10/2023

Submitter Name: Daniel Nash

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Phone Number: 12536924813

Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Conor Leary

Requested Amount: **\$3,499**

**Departmental Information**

**SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - CRITERIA**

This special allocation request responds to an immediate need created by the required increase to the state minimum wage. The amount of the increase for 2024 was published in current quarter, several months after the 2023-2024 annual allocation process concluded, meaning it was not possible to accurately account for the increased wage during annual planning.

This is one of three special allocations proposals I am submitting. Because the minimum wage increase is required by the state, it is my top priority among the three.

**STUDENT UTILIZATION**

The increase to our wage funding will fulfill a state requirement, while also proportionately increasing the compensation of students who are paid above minimum wage.

**SPECIAL ALLOCATIONS - STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES**

The change to payroll will be automatically implemented come Jan. 1, 2024.

**SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS**

The most significant way the Ledger benefits students is that it gives them a chance to read about issues that impact the student body, in articles written by students like them. One tool we have to see this in action, and examine whether the paper is hitting the mark, is to review thetacomaledger.com's story analytics on the day new stories are released. Stories about cocurricular programs, support resources, health services, or local businesses--in short, stories that directly affect students' day-to-day lives--rise to the top of the "Most Viewed" list when they're published online. We believe that it is essential for universities to have an independent paper that reports and critiques topics that are relevant to students.

It's important to gauge the paper's impacts on its student employees as well. The Ledger's staff develop professional skills that carry over after college. The process of handling unfamiliar information, making quick sense of it, cooperating with peers, and transfiguring raw material into a narrative product that will make sense to casual readers--all on a deadline that repeats week after week--prepares students for managing the ambiguity and demanding schedule of a full-time workplace.

I like to keep track of former Ledger employees; many have gone on to wonderful and varied careers. Editor-in-Chief Talia Collett (2020-2021; arts editor 2019-2020) is now a program assistant in UW Tacoma's Office of Community Partnerships. Managing Editor Alyssandra Goss (2019-2021) is a project coordinator for Belshire Environmental in Southern California. Opinion Section Editor Remi Frederick (2021-2022) has contributed articles about local theater to the Seattle Times Company's event calendar website, The Ticket. Former Tahoma West Nonfiction Editor Tiera Nhem (2019-2021) is an assistant editor for the same publication. Layout Manager and Designer Morgan Morgans (2019-2022) provides costuming services for community theaters throughout Western Washington.

Tahoma West benefits students by providing them with a manageable first step toward becoming a published author/artist. Students who submit to Tahoma West are exposed to the same publication process they would encounter at a professional publisher, but scaled down to the size of our campus, making it a manageable first step for someone interested in pursuing authorship. Creative arts majors are far from the only group interested in this goal. **Contributors to the 2022 journal came from 11 different major programs.** Historically, Writing Studies majors make up the largest group of contributors, but in a surprise turn, this year the most contributors came from programs in the School of Social Work. Creativity is and should be for everyone.

## Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	Accounts for a \$0.54 increase to the minimum wage across all jobs over an estimated 22 weeks. <span style="float: right;">E001</span>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$2,887</b>
	Fringe @ 21.2%:	<b>\$612</b>
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		<b>\$3,499</b>

## Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$0</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	<b>\$3,499</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	<b>\$0</b>
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,499</b>

## Supplemental Documents