



News release
October 24, 2023

Two Cascade High students chosen to ask Governor Inslee questions
AP US Government and Politics providing an immersive experience



James Larsen



Sukhman Takhar

[Everett, WA]—An OSPI Social Studies NewsFlash email last week alerted Melissa Webster, AP US Government and Politics teacher at Cascade High School, of an opportunity for her students to connect with Governor Jay Inslee in a live Q&A over Zoom.

Ten of her AP students jumped at the opportunity and began individually researching various issues they found interesting from Inslee's highlighted achievements and then wrote a question for the Governor based on their research. They then filmed their questions and submitted them to TVW, Washington's public affairs network.

Students asked questions about topics including the Governor's policies on climate change, homelessness, education and gun violence in our state. "I am so proud and elated two of my students, seniors James Larsen and Sukhman Takhar, were selected out of over 100 submissions from throughout the state to ask Governor Inslee their questions live," said Webster. "Only 12 students get to ask questions live during a zoom conference on October 24."

Corey Paulson with the Teach With TVW Team wrote, "We are so impressed and proud of the hard work that your students have done in preparation for this opportunity."

Webster adds, "I am passionate about teaching civics to our youth to provide a rich and immersive learning experience by showing students how to work within the system. I really want them to know and believe that their voices matter! Whether it is by asking questions to our Governor or participating in the Legislative process, they too can be involved and make a difference."

Another opportunity her students will have this school year is to be paired up with a team of volunteer Lobbyists in TEACH WITH TVW's Capitol Classroom Plus program in January. As the 2024 Legislative session begins, her students will participate in the legislative process by attending bi-weekly Zoom meetings with our assigned partner lobbyists on environment and climate change.

Students will choose actual bills to support, oppose or amend, bringing civic participation into the classroom. Then, under the guidance of their lobbyist, they will track and advocate for their bill as it moves through the legislative process.

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For more information:

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