



MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Proposal to Create MS in Viticulture and Enology Program

DATE: March 5, 2025

The attached proposal from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resources Sciences (CAHNRS) to create a Master of Science (MS) in Viticulture and Enology on the WSU Tri-Cities campus has been reviewed by the Provost's Office and our internal review committee. After careful consideration, we support the proposal.

In 2023, the Viticulture and Enology program transitioned into a standalone Department of Viticulture and Enology, reflecting the growing importance of Washington State's wine industry and the increasing demand for specialized education and research in this field. Establishing an MS in Viticulture and Enology is a critical step in equipping students with the experimental methods and advanced expertise needed to lead major projects within the grape and wine industry. This program would prepare them to navigate and address the complex challenges that define the modern grape and wine sectors.

As the second-largest wine-producing state in the U.S., Washington is home to over 1,050 wineries and more than 400 grape growers, cultivating over 60,000 acres of wine grapes. The state produces over 17 million cases of wine annually, contributing more than \$9.5 billion in in-state economic impact as of April 2024. Establishing an MS in Viticulture and Enology at WSU would not only attract and develop top-tier talent but also strengthen Washington state's leadership in viticulture and enology education, research, and industry innovation.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.