FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Viticulture and Enology Research Grant Opportunities
Applications now accepted for the Washington State Grape and Wine Research Program.

SEATTLE (September 9, 2016) - Scientists interested in improving wine quality in Washington State are invited to participate in a competitive grant program funded by the Washington State Wine Commission. Research proposals will be accepted through December 12, 2016.

Viticulture and enology research to benefit Washington’s wine industry is funded through the Washington State Grape and Wine Research Program. The grant program is open to principal investigators at all Washington State public institutions with the capabilities to address the research and outreach needs of the Washington State viticulture and enology industry. Collaboration with out-of-state researchers is encourage but the principal investigator must be located within the state of Washington. There is no limit to research proposals submitted by each principal investigator.

The grape and wine research program, administered by Washington State University, is funded through a unique public, private and industry partnership. Industry funding comes from the Wine Commission, which represents all wine grape growers and wineries in the state. Private funding is from the Auction of Washington Wines, an annual fundraising event that supports Seattle’s Children’s Hospital and the WSU viticulture and enology program, and public funds are from the state liter tax on all wine sold and WSU’s Agricultural Research Center. In the last funding cycle, the research program funded 13 viticulture and enology research proposals totaling nearly $870,000.

The Wine Research Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Wine Commission, will review the research proposals in mid-January and make funding recommendations to the Wine Commission’s Board of Directors. Research grant funds will be available after July 1, 2017.

Viticulture and enology research is a cornerstone of the Wine Commission. About 25 percent of the Wine Commission’s annual budget of over $5 million is currently spent on research. That percentage includes the Wine Commission’s pledge of $7.4 million that helped build a state-of-the-art wine research and teaching facility at WSU’s Tri-City campus.

Learn more about the grant program and application process online.

About the Washington State Wine Commission
The Washington State Wine Commission represents every licensed winery and wine grape grower in Washington State. Guided by an appointed board, the mission of the WSWC is to raise positive awareness and demand for Washington State wine through marketing and education while supporting viticulture and enology research to drive industry growth. Funded almost entirely by the industry through assessments based on grape and wine sales, the WSW is a state government agency, established by the legislature in 1987. To learn more, visit www.washingtonwine.org.

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