

Western Illinois University

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 5, 2023

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WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 4, 2023 – December 5, 2023

Western Illinois University
Macomb, Illinois

December 4, 2023 – University Union Capital Room

Motion to Convene to Open Session – 5:30 p.m. **Action**

Roll Call **Action**

Old Business

New Business

Motion to Convene to Closed Session **Action**

Motion to Convene to Open Session **Action**

Adjourn **Action**

December 5, 2023 – University Union Capital Room

Motion to Convene to Open Session – 8:30 a.m. **Action**

Roll Call

Public Comments

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of October 12, 2023 Open and Closed Meeting Minutes and the October 13, 2023 Open Meeting Minutes

Proclamation - Officer Appreciation - Bradley L. “Brad” Bainter
Mrs. Carin Stutz, Chair and President Guiyou Huang

Chairperson’s Remarks

Mrs. Carin Stutz, Chair

President’s Remarks

President Guiyou Huang

Agenda Topic

Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 23.12/1

Finance Committee Report -- Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending September 30, 2023
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 23.12/2

Purchases of \$100,000 -- \$499,999.99
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 23.12/3

Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 1st Quarter
(Director of Sponsored Projects, Shannon Sutton)

Report No. 23.12/4

Undergraduate Admissions and Student Success
(Interim Vice President for Student Success, John Smith and Admissions Director, Doug Freed)

Report No. 23.12/5

Academic Affairs Report
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 23.12/6

JIDE Initiatives
(Director for Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, Carl Ervin)

Report No. 23.12/7

Report on Contributions
(Vice President for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Athletics, Clare Thompson)

Report No. 23.12/8

Quad Cities Campus Priorities, Strategies, and Highlights
(Vice President of QC Campus Operations, Kristi Mindrup)

Report No. 23.12/9

University Marketing and Communications
(Interim Assistant Vice President of Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations, Alisha Looney)

Verbal Reports and Updates

Athletics Director, Paul Bubb

Director of Governmental Relations, Zach Messersmith

General & Advisory Group Reports and Comments

Student Government Association, Kyle Ramlow (Macomb)
Student Government Association, Ashley Danner (Quad Cities)
Faculty Senate Chair, Julia Albarracin
Faculty Council Co-Chair, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner and/or Dana Lindemann
Civil Service Employees Council, Jackie Price
Council of Administrative Personnel President, Paul Bubb

Resolutions and Action Items

Action

-
- Resolution No. 23.12/1 **Action**
Disposition of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Audio Recordings
(Interim General Counsel, Torrey Smith)
- Resolution No. 23.12/2 **Action**
Update to Western Illinois University Benchmarking Institutions
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)
- Resolution No. 23.12/3 **Action**
Amended Resolution No. 23.10/9 - International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL- CIO Local
Union No. 399 – Landscape Maintenance 2023-2026 Bargaining Agreement
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)
- Resolution No. 23.12/4 **Action**
Resolution Authorizing the Financing of Technology Improvements
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)
- Resolution No. 23.12/5 **Action**
Amendment to the Regulations of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University Section II
Subsection (B)(7) Distinguished Service Professorship
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Old Business

New Business

Next Meeting

March 21, 2024 Closed Session - Macomb Campus in the University Union, Capital Room
March 22, 2024 Open Session - Macomb Campus in the University Union, Capital Room

Adjourn

Action

- The meetings audio will be streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/WesternIllinoisU>
- Public comments will be held to a total of 30 minutes. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes for those speaking in person and 500 words for those writing. Those who wish to have your comments read, please email them to Athena Brooks at AM-Brooks@WIU.edu by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Friday, December 1, 2023.
- Trustees will meet in person.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:
October 12, 2023

Minutes will be available for review at:

http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:
October 13, 2023

Minutes will be available for review at:

http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/1 -- Finance Committee Report -- Budget and Financial
Data for Quarter ending September 30, 2023

All Funds						
	FY2024		% of	FY2023		% of
	Budget	FY2024	Budget	Budget	FY2023	Budget
Revenue						
State Appropriations	\$ 55,712,200	\$ 15,335,689	28%	\$ 52,067,400	\$ 15,466,116	30%
Assessed Tuition	46,414,600	27,010,728	58%	51,585,000	27,543,513	53%
Assessed Room and Board	20,014,614	11,112,775	56%	20,294,974	11,411,955	56%
Sales	3,563,700	1,538,420	43%	3,022,750	1,481,896	49%
Assessed Student Fees	4,658,254	2,540,300	55%	4,775,691	2,560,776	54%
Other	59,968,613	22,745,457	38%	61,001,212	21,721,646	36%
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 190,331,981</u>	<u>\$ 80,283,369</u>	42%	<u>\$ 192,747,027</u>	<u>\$ 80,185,902</u>	42%
Expenditures						
Personnel Services	\$ 104,000,000	\$ 18,276,320	18%	\$ 99,200,000	\$ 17,948,679	18%
Medicare	1,970,000	1,143,243	58%	1,945,000	\$ 883,824	45%
Commodities	3,560,000	800,339	22%	3,500,000	\$ 625,308	18%
Operation of Automotive Equip	620,000	81,055	13%	545,000	\$ 96,324	18%
Travel	695,000	86,918	13%	583,000	\$ 57,636	10%
Contractual Services	41,500,000	10,778,440	26%	40,650,000	\$ 9,324,919	23%
Permanent Improvements	430,000	585,677	136%	650,000	\$ 15,204	2%
Equipment	4,300,000	776,377	18%	5,522,200	\$ 952,137	17%
Telecommunication Services	325,000	98,862	30%	427,000	\$ 54,132	13%
Awards/Grants & Matching Funds	38,600,000	17,734,082	46%	47,033,000	\$ 18,866,720	40%
CMS Health Insurance	3,044,800	2,271,521	75%	3,144,800	\$ 2,223,002	71%
Other	10,950,000	3,372,349	31%	10,200,000	\$ 5,700,756	56%
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 209,994,800</u>	<u>\$ 56,005,181</u>	27%	<u>\$ 213,400,000</u>	<u>\$ 56,748,641</u>	27%

The Board of Trustees approved the Western Illinois University Fiscal Year 2024 All Funds Budget by source of funds and estimated object of expenditure on October 13th, 2023 (see Western Illinois University Board of Trustees Resolution No. 23.10/1). Per Board approval, Western Illinois University is authorized to spend up to \$209.9 million during Fiscal Year 2024, and the President is authorized to make technical adjustments in budgets if necessary.

Following the approval of institutional spending plans, the Western Illinois Board of Trustees shall receive quarterly revenue and expenditure reports to review the University's financial status and compliance with institutional spending plans. To be clear, concise, and transparent, the financials have been revised to a single chart that includes all sources of revenues and expenditures. This information has been presented in separate charts in prior years.

The table above outlines the approved All Funds Budget for the current year, along with year-to-date revenue and expense data. Fiscal Year 2023 data is also provided for comparative purposes. Revenue projections are based on factors including enrollment, retention rates, occupancy numbers, and other historical data. The budgeted expenditures are mainly comprised of personnel services, contractual services and financial aid obligations. Conservative projected revenues coupled with projected expenditure obligations result in a FY2024 budgeted deficit of \$19.6 million across ALL funds. Similar to last fiscal year's results (FY2023 realized deficit of \$13.6 million vs. FY2023 budgeted deficit of \$21.8 million), at this time it is anticipated that the FY2024 all funds realized deficit will be significantly lower than the budgeted deficit.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/2 -- Purchases of \$100,000 -- \$499,999.99

Purchases of \$100,000 - \$249,999

Vendor	Type of Purchase	Annual Amount (unless otherwise noted)	Number of Bids
Tremco; Cleveland, OH	Repair/replace windows at Campus Recreation.	\$135,000	IPHEC
National Public Radio; Washington, DC	FY24 annual membership/ programming fees for Tri States Public Radio	\$141,273	Exempt
CoverCress, Inc; St. Louis, MO	FY24 subaward for School of Ag's Integrated Pennycress Research Enabling Farm and Energy Resilience grant. WIU BOT previously approved this award on 3/24/23.	\$178,207.05	Exempt (Grant)
EAB Global Inc; Washington, DC	Strategic advisory services to include review of academic programming, online growth, and course offerings (year 1 of a 3-year agreement) IPHEC contract – exempt from BOT approval	\$200,000	Sole Source (IPHEC2222)

Purchases of \$250,000 - \$499,999

Receiving Presidential Approval

Vendor	Type of Purchase	Annual Amount (unless otherwise noted)	Number of Bids
N/A			

Purchases \$500,000 and above Exempt from BOT Approval

Vendor	Type of Purchase	Annual Amount (unless otherwise noted)	Number of Bids
University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, MN	FY24 subaward for School of Ag's Integrated Pennycress Research Enabling Farm and Energy Resilience grant. WIU BOT previously approved this award on 3/24/23.	\$664,973.98	Exempt (Grant)
Carahsoft Technology Corporation; Reston, VA	Ellucian Colleague ERP software and services (year 1 of a 6-year agreement) IPHEC contract – exempt from BOT approval	\$1,203,858.00	IPHEC (2011GAL)

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/3 -- Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 1st Quarter

Executive Summary:

Report on externally-sponsored grants and contracts and income-producing contracts received by the University provided to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis.

Quarter to Date

Three Months Ended September 30	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Awards > \$50,000	\$5,081,242 (10)	\$5,546,069 (15)	\$27,064,348 (12)
Total Awards, (regardless of value)	\$5,197,342 (18)	\$5,773,225 (27)	\$27,201,424 (20)

Fiscal Year to Date

Three Months Ended September 30	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY22</u>
Awards > \$50,000	\$5,081,242 (10)	\$5,546,069 (15)	\$27,064,348 (12)
Total Awards, (regardless of value)	\$5,197,342 (18)	\$5,773,225 (27)	\$27,201,424 (20)

Summary of Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts

<u>Quarters</u>	<u>Quarterly Totals</u>		<u>Annual Totals</u>
1st	\$5,197,342 (18)	FY23	\$18,449,768 (88)
2 nd		FY22	\$38,562,123 (114)
3 rd		FY21	\$31,169,325 (121)
4 th		FY20	\$28,516,125 (117)
Total	\$5,197,342 (18)	FY19	\$16,631,791 (124)

Selected Sponsored Projects Funded by External Agencies in the 1st Quarter FY2024

Grants and Contracts

Amount of Grant or Contract:	\$90,000
Grantor/Contractor:	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Date Received:	July 14, 2023
Term:	January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023
Director/Fiscal Agent:	James Boyd & Christopher Merrett
Purpose:	Public Service. The purpose of this project is to provide financial assistance to aid small businesses.
Amount of Grant or Contract:	\$113,257
Grantor/Contractor:	Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Date Received:	July 15, 2024
Term:	July 15, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent:	Heather Hotz
Purpose:	Public Service. The purpose of this project is to continue to support the Safe2Help Illinois program.
Amount of Grant or Contract:	\$150,000
Grantor/Contractor:	Illinois State Board of Education
Date Received:	July 13, 2023
Term:	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent:	Lisa Litchfield
Purpose:	Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support LEA-IHE partnerships necessary to implement and operate an effective teacher residency program within the applicant LEA.
Amount of Grant or Contract:	\$178,279
Grantor/Contractor:	Illinois Board of Higher Education
Date Received:	September 14, 2023
Term:	July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent:	Cara Cerullo
Purpose:	Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the initial activities of the Mental Health Early Action on Campus program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$250,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois State Board of Education
Date Received: August 25, 2023
Term: August 21, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Eric Sheffield
Purpose: Research. The purpose of this project is to review and research CTE programming in rural and small Illinois schools.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$400,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Date Received: July 14, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the WIU Preparedness and Response (PAR) program in FY24.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$421,206
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Human Services
Date Received: July 14, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Lindsay Meeker
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support Provider Connections and their work with IDHS to establish an Early Intervention credentialing and enrollment system that improves the quality of services offered to infants and toddlers in EI programs.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$978,500
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois State Board of Education
Date Received: July 13, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Connie Shugart & Lindsay Meeker
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to provide training and technical assistance to early childhood special education staff and families of young children.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$1,000,000
 Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board
 Date Received: July 3, 2023
 Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
 Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz
 Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the programming for the Executive Institute.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$1,500,000
 Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board
 Date Received: July 3, 2023
 Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
 Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz
 Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the administrative functions of the Executive Institute.

Additional Information

Number of First or Second-time Proposals and Awards

First Quarter:	<u>1st Proposal</u>	<u>2nd Proposal</u>	<u>1st Award</u>	<u>2nd Award</u>
	2	1	1	1
Fiscal Year to Date:	<u>1st Proposal</u>	<u>2nd Proposal</u>	<u>1st Award</u>	<u>2nd Award</u>
	2	1	1	1

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/4 -- Undergraduate Admissions and Student Success

Overview

New student enrollment and overall enrollment is a complex interplay of a range of factors, including:

- Institutional image and reputation
- Student perception
- Competition
- Cost
- Service
- Academic program
- Modality of instruction
- Physical campus environment
- Perception of the value of college
- Economy

The enrollment challenge at WIU did not occur overnight and will not be solved overnight. The environment for recruiting and enrolling new students is very challenging. Competition is hyper intense, among other factors, for a declining market of students. This is particularly true in our primary market of the state of Illinois.

Strategies and Tactics

Undergraduate Admissions is continuing with the wide array of strategies and tactics from the recruitment plan for fall 2024. Tactics continue in these areas:

- Lead Generation
- Communication and Messaging
- On-Campus Events
- Off-Campus Events
- Systems, Application Processing and Other Office Engagement
- Admissions Staffing

We are continuing to recruit students who want to be at Western and will be successful.

Communication and Messaging

Undergraduate Admissions collaborates very closely with University Marketing to develop and coordinate content in a variety of channels that are actively used to engage with students:

Web sites	Email	Texting
Video	Student engagement communities	Facebook
Twitter (X)	Instagram	Tik Tok
High school visits	College Fairs	High school and CC visits
Direct mail	Publications	

On-Campus Events

- Three large Discover Western open houses were held, with two-time frames for guests to engage with academic areas and faculty. Improvements this year have included a new, more upbeat opening Welcome, incorporating the live mascot Ray, and adding current student 1:1 meetings with families, in addition to 1:1 meetings with admissions counselors (photos below)



Admissions Ambassadors 1:1 with Discover Western guests



Ray and Joe Roselieb on stage at Discover Western

- Multiple Saturday opportunities were added, with an overview presentation followed by a current student-led campus tour and then 1:1 questions and answers
- Creating on-campus visit days exclusively for transfer students, including a resource fair, current student panel, academic information and lunch in a dining center (photo below)



Kassie Daly presenting at Rocky's Transfer Preview Day

- Individual high schools and community colleges have the opportunity to bring groups of students to either the Macomb or Quad Cities campus to explore and learn about Western
 - The group visit calendar on the Macomb campus was full, including from Spoon River and Black Hawk Colleges, Havana HS, Pekin HS, Mercer County HS, United HS, Illini West HS and Limestone HS
 - A full slate of group visits was held on the Quad Cities campus, including from Alwood HS, Cambridge HS, Central-Dewitt HS, Bettendorf HS, Geneseo HS, North Scott HS, Pleasant Valley HS, and Rock Island HS (twice) as we continue to emphasize engagement with local high schools.



Prospective students from Rock Island HS visiting the Quad Cities campus.

- Western Express brought invited, interested students along the Amtrak train route to campus for a daylong event. Students were escorted on the train by the Chicago-based admissions counselor team who will also escort the students during their day on campus. Students received various academic presentations, learned and experienced campus life in the digital recreation center, had a Multicultural Center presentation and tour, ate lunch in a dining center and met current students while touring campus.
- WIU hosted the Community College Transfer Articulation meeting on the Macomb campus. Each Illinois university may host one of these events yearly. This event allowed Western to provide academic programs and other updates directly to community college advisors.

Selected comments from our guests about their experience at on-campus events

Discover Western – “Between my current senior and older children, I have been on dozens of college visits in more than 10 states. Western’s day did a fantastic job of connecting my senior to the people at your school, demonstrating the usefulness of his potential degree program, and

demonstrating what a student focused organization WIU is. I truly could not have been more impressed.”

--Parent of a high school senior

Discover Western – “I love how welcoming everyone was, and very informative.”

--Student

Discover Western – “I really enjoyed the Biology major breakout tour. It was the first time a college has given information about my major (Zoology) at an open house. The student ambassador on the tour, Baylee, was incredibly helpful. She’s minoring in Zoology and actually took the time to speak with me during lunch about the program. Similarly, the woman at the Study Abroad table actually knew about study abroad opportunities for Zoology students which, again, was a very pleasant first from a college visit. Overall, I feel like I was able to get a personalized program that really made an impact in my decision about the college.”

--Student

Quad Cities campus Group Visit – “It was terrific. Students were actually asking when they could go again. AND, when were there other kinds of these tours.”

--HS Counselor

Macomb campus Group Visit – “Thank you so much for an amazing visit to your beautiful campus. The students had such a great time! We appreciate how flexible WIU always is with us. You always go above and beyond! Can’t wait for our next trip!

--Pekin HS Counseling /Department

Academic Department Recruitment Events

Numerous academic departments have hosted prospective students on campus and Undergraduate Admissions has partnered to provide presentations and campus tours. Among the programs are:

- A Day in the Life for Theatre
- Ag Open House
- Art High School Exhibition
- Biology Day
- Future Teacher’s Day
- LEJA Day
- Music Discovery Day
- Physics Exploration

Undergraduate Admissions serves the local community as a host site for a college night on-campus for an Illinois Regional College Fair (IRCF). Students from these local high schools are invited to attend the Fair:

• A-C Central Astoria	• Astoria
• Avon	• Brown County
• Bushnell-Prairie City	• Canton
• Cuba	• Farmington
• Hamilton	• Havana
• Illini West	• Lewistown
• Macomb	• Monmouth-Roseville
• Rushville-Industry	• Southeastern
• Spoon River Valley	• United
• Warsaw	• West Central
• West Prairie	

Off-Campus Events

Fall is a very busy time for Undergraduate Admissions and staff have traveled all over Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and lower Wisconsin for high school visits, college fairs and transfer days at community colleges.



Kate Romanaggi meeting prospective students at a Chicago Public High School fair.



Taylor Fietterer at a Trunk or Treat College Fair at Oakton College



Audrey Barrientos recruiting prospective students during a college fair at Taft High School.



Trustee Derek Wise, Alumna Stacey Lampkin (Director of College Access and Persistence at East Saint Louis HS) and Ries Wynn-Foster at the East St. Louis HS College & Career Fair.

Onsite admission visits

Onsite admission programs allow students to apply and receive an admissions decision on the spot. This also allows admissions counselors to begin to build relationships with admitted students. Onsite events have been conducted at these schools/community colleges:

- Bloom HS
- Collins Academy HS
- Collinsville HS
- Elgin Community College
- Englewood Stem HS
- Grant Community HS
- Hillcrest HS
- Illini West HS
- Johnson College Prep HS
- Leo Catholic HS
- Macomb HS
- McHenry HS
- Minooka HS
- Rushville Industry HS

- South Shore International College Prep HS
- Urban Prep Academy-Englewood HS
- West Prairie HS
- Zion-Benton HS

Dual Enrollment onsite admission

A Macomb HS dual enrollment admission and registration session for spring 2024 was conducted jointly by Undergraduate Admissions and the First Year Advising Center.

Summary

The enrollment challenge did not occur overnight and will not be solved overnight and is a daily priority with high urgency. Challenges over the past several years have been enormous and continue. Stability and consistency moving forward will allow more alignment among campus constituencies, enhancing partnerships among faculty, the Provost's Office, Marketing, University Relations, Institutional Research, AIMS, Budget, Student Success, Alumni and others who share the goal of increasing enrollment. We will continue to build the infrastructure to support enrollment moving forward.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/5 -- Academic Affairs Report

College of Arts and Sciences

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Olivia Brinker, senior double major in Forensic Chemistry and Mathematics was selected as the Fall 2023 College Scholar. Olivia plans to join the MS program in Chemistry at Western after receiving her B.S. in December.
- History department faculty Tim Roberts and Ute Chamberlin co-created WIU's inaugural Future Teachers Day, which, co-sponsored with the School of Education, WIU hosted October 27, 2023. The event hosted 210 high school students from 11 regional high schools, and showcased WIU's various education degree programs. The event became paired with the School of Education's unveiling of its Seymour Center for Rural Education.
- The Institute for Environmental Studies and the IL Institute for Rural Affairs took leadership in establishing a memorandum of agreement with the Corn Belt Ports to support research and experiential learning with America's newest federally recognized port district.
- Chris Sutton, professor in the department of Earth, Atmospheric and Geographic Information Sciences received the Provost Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- The English Department hosted Emily St. John Mandel, a bestselling author, as a Lola Visiting Writer on Oct. 16th. With two events (a craft talk and a discussion and conversation session) Mandel spoke with over 100 people, ate lunch with several creative writing students, and was very well received all around.
- Kishor Kapale, chair of the Department of Physics is helping transition the grades 2-8 robotics activities previously managed by the Department of Physics to the Macomb School. Overall participation has increased from about 20 last year to 200 this year. The school district's science teachers are helping mentor the activities and Dr. Kapale is serving as a mentor and supporter to the teachers.
- Dr. Kim McClure was awarded a Department of Justice grant through its Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) for \$747,198.00. The goal of the grant project is to offer police officers evidence-based de-escalation content and scenario-based practice with feedback and performance reflection. This proposal involves optimizing educational approaches (e.g., online, virtual scenario-based applications) for officer communication, self-regulation, responses and decision making, and safety in service to community members. A novel aspect of the proposal is incorporating community feedback on de-escalation curriculum content and scenarios.

DEPARTMENTS

Biology:

- Dr. Lauren Coffey, M.D., WIU Alumni - "On becoming a Medical Doctor"
- Department Biological Sciences – Welcome Back WG 202.
- Faculty and Graduate student introductions – light lunch
- Department Social – Kibbe – Transportation available
- Dr. Rick Essner, PhD., Department of Biological Sciences, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. "Honey, I Shrunk the Frogs: Uncontrolled Landing Behavior in Miniaturized Pumpkin Toadlets"
- Dr. Jessica Bohrhunter, Ph.D., Department of Biological Sciences, Western Illinois University. "Control of Peptidoglycan Synthesis in Escherichia coli"

Chemistry:

- Dr. Ligu Song:
 1. Reviewer: Food Chemistry (06/19/2023)
 2. Reviewer: Journal of Food Composition and Analysis (08/21/2023)
 3. Reviewer: Talanta (10/26/2023)
 4. Reviewer: Journal of Chromatography A (11/02/2023)
 5. Submission of Final Performance Report for DOJ Award 2020-DQ-BX-0021 (10/23/2023)
 6. Journal article: [https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0731-7085\(23\)00616-7](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0731-7085(23)00616-7) (11/07/2023)
 7. Meeting with a prospective student who visited WIU (09/25/2023)
 8. Visiting Galesburg High School (10/31/2023)
- Dr. Ligu Song and four Undergraduates (Regina Scarpaci, Ashley Webb, Mary Pearson and Logan Barnard) conducted a hands-on Forensic Chemistry Show for the students of Galesburg High School on October 23
- Fall 2023 Midwest Regional Presentations, October 15-17, St. Louis, MO
 - "Analyzing illicit drugs utilizing silver nanoparticles" Lillie Purcell, Bradee Finley, Dane Pfeiferling, Mette Soendergaard, John Determan
 - "Carbon dot biosensing of illicit drugs" Kaylee Hammer, Mackenzie White, Tyler Raspante, Schaefer Roach, Bella Bolzenius, Mette Soendergaard, John Determan
 - "The Detection of GBL Using Metal-PVP Nanoparticles" Regina Scarpaci, Logan Barnard, John Determan
 - "The use of silica nanoparticles as biosensors for illicit drug detections," Mary Pearson, Ashley Webb, Mette Soendergaard, John Determan
 - "Fluorescence and gas sorption studies of thiourea carbon dot-incorporated metal-organic frameworks." Bella Bolzenius, Schaefer Roach, John Determan, Matthew McConnell
 - "Correlation consistent basis sets redesigned for utilization with density functional approximations," John J. Determan and Angela K. Wilson

Synthesis of macrocyclic aromatic tellurides towards the synthesis of cycloparaphenylenes, by Egzona Tahiri, Changchi Yen, Jin Jin and Shaozhong Zhang

Synthesis and study of novel macrocycles containing S, Se, Te and Si, by Marlana Gabriel, Bharatchandra Gullapelly, Shaozhong Zhang and Jin Jin

- Professor Liguo Songs' proposal titled Quantification of psychotropic cannabinoids in newly emerging hemp-derived products and evaluation of their stability and interconversion during storage submitted to the Department of Justice for funding has been approved for funding for \$251501. The duration of the funding is from Jan 1, 2024 till Dec 31, 2025.
- Professor Mette Soendergaard will present an invited talk at the 2023 Midwest and Great Lakes Regional Meeting in St. Louis on October 20. Title of her talk is Using phage display for biomarker targeting and identification.
- The Department of Chemistry is hosting its Annual Poster Day on October 11, 2023 from 3.30-5.00 PM followed by a Pizza gathering for the participants and guests.
- Professors Determan, Bellott, Jin, Shaozhang and McConnell's students will also present their posters at the 2023 Midwest and Great Lakes Regional Meeting in St. Louis.

EAGIS:

- Christopher Sutton - Provost Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- Steve Bennett - Judge posters for awards and presented the awards to the winners at the 35th Annual Undergraduate Research Poster Session hosted by Sigma Gamma Epsilon (The National Honorary Society for the Earth Sciences). The session was held on October 16th during the National Convention of the Geological Society of America (GSA Connects) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Leslie Melim - Recrystallization of Lime Mud: Evidence from Speleothems and Implications for Limestones. Presented at SUNY Fredonia, October 13, 2023.
- Leslie Melim - The Secret Life of Speleothems: It's Dead...but was it ever Alive? Presented at SUNY Fredonia, October 13, 2023.
- Leslie Melim - Poster: Terrile, Alec, S, Hegna, T., Bellott, B.J., and Lerosey-Aubril, 2023, New Evidence for Bacterial Mediation of the Silicification of Carbonate Fossils, Poster presented Oct 18, 2023. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol. 55, No. 6, 2023 doi: 10.1130/abs/2023AM-394704
- ILGISA Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award 2023: Keisuke Nozaki. The Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award is presented for extraordinary service to the GIS community. The Honors committee may select a recipient for the Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award, as and when they deem appropriate. The recipient of the Dahlberg Distinguished Achievement Award also becomes a Distinguished Member of ILGISA. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the development and advancement of geographic information systems. Only one such award is made each year; it is possible that no award is presented in a given year.

- ILGISA Outstanding Student Award 2023: Brandon D'Andrea, Emma LeMaster, and Brad Mercer. The ILGISA Outstanding Student Award is presented to an undergraduate student of any major who has included GIS in their course of study, and has demonstrated exemplary proficiency and understanding of GIS, potential contribution to the GIS Community, and general success in school.
- Steve Bennett made a 1.5 hour Zoom presentation covering Illinois Geology to participants in the Master Naturalist program that is coordinated by the University of Illinois Extension.
- Leslie Melim: LIFE Class presentation: Living and Playing with Pele: Volcanoes of the World, delivered Sept. 20 and Sept 27, 2023
- Melim, L.A., Mure-Ravaud, S.R., Hegna, T.A., Bellott, B.J., and Lerosey-Aubril, R, 2023b, Silicification of trilobites and biofilm from the Cambrian Weeks Formation, Utah: Evidence of microbial mediation of silicification: Reply to discussion, *Geology*, v.51, p. e567, <https://doi.org/10.1130/G51561Y.1>

English:

- Barb Lawhorn continued her Mindfulness Program for everyone in the department.
- Amy Patrick Mossman spent three weeks in France to begin an exchange program with the University of LeMans. She taught multiple lectures and worked on creating connections between WIU and faculty from the University of LeMans.
- Grace McGill was awarded an Undergraduate Research Grant and will be presenting her work this coming spring at the NCTE national conference.
- Barb Lawhorn organized the first in a series of Reading Room events. The first one was held in the Student Lounge of Simpkins Hall on Monday, Oct 23rd and over 30 people attended.
- English hosted Emily St. John Mandel, a bestselling author, as a Lola Visiting Writer on Oct. 16th. With two events (a craft talk and a discussion and conversation session) Mandel spoke with over 100 people, ate lunch with several creative writing students, and was very well received all around.
- Sigma Tau Delta hosted a second annual Spooky Simpkins Night on Oct 26th. Over twenty students and faculty attended.
- Barb Lawhorn began a month Mindfulness Program for everyone in the dept.
- Alumni Julianna Goodman came back to participate in the Visiting Writers Series on Sept 26th. She read from her first published novel (the first of a two book deal).
- English participated in the Major/Minor Table Fair on Sept 13th
- The department held a "Poetry, Pizza, Pop, and Prose" event to welcome back majors and welcome first years—it was very popular with all. Over 31 people attended.

FLL:

- Munia Cabal-Jiminez: Peer-reviewed publication, by invitation, of a chapter in the volume published by Brill "Linguistic Advances in Central American Spanish".
<https://brill.com/display/title/68340?language=en>. It was published as an Ebook on September 29th, but the hardcopy just came out in October 5th.
<https://brill.com/display/title/68340?language=en>

History:

- Greg Hall, review of a book by Ahmed White, *Under the Iron Heel: The Wobblies and the Capitalist War on Radical Workers*, in *Pacific Historical Review* 92 (Oct 2023): 672-674.
- Tim Roberts, review of a book by Maureen Santelli, *The Greek Fire: American-Ottoman Relations and Democratic Fervor in the Age of Revolutions*, in *Journal of American History* 110 (Sep 2023): 341-342.
- Tim Roberts, paper "Lessons from a 19th-century American military occupation for today," at a conference *Military Occupations and International Relations in Modern Times*, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi, Romania, November 3, 2023.
- Peter Cole, paper "The dockers who fought authoritarianism with maritime solidarity," at a conference *Maritime Solidarities: Past and Present*, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, Netherlands, September 23, 2023.
- Peter Cole, non-juried presentation, "Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project," Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist (virtual), Grayslake, IL, October 8, 2023.
- Peter Cole, non-juried presentation, "The Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project," WIU University Distinguished Lecture, October 25, 2023.
- History majors Natalie Gibson, Emma Styx, Eli Asplund, Molly Blust, Kane Struwe, Nathan Penrod, Sam Jones, and Winter Unverzagt researched and wrote interpretive signs for the history department's World War II living history exhibit, Macomb campus October 12-13, 2023. Signs accompanied historical reenactors portraying soldiers of the American, Russian, German, Finnish, and British militaries. The event gained regional media attention.
- As advisor for the Associated Students of History, Ute Chamberlin accompanied ASH students to the historic village of Bishop Hill to learn the history, crafts and trades of the period.
- As a part of its World War II living history event October 12 and 13, the history department hosted 160 middle and high school students from Macomb Middle School and Trinity Academy.
- History department faculty Tim Roberts and Ute Chamberlin co-created WIU's inaugural Future Teachers Day, which, co-sponsored with the School of Education, WIU hosted October 27, 2023. The event hosted 210 high school students from 11 regional high schools, and showcased WIU's various education degree programs. The event became paired with the School of Education's unveiling of its Seymour Center for Rural Education.

- The History department secured a new annual scholarship funded by the Alexander Macomb chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, providing \$1,000 a year to students studying American History at WIU.
- As chair of the department, Tim Roberts sent emails to all students who received early warning grades in history classes to inquire about their situations. Several responses revealed students struggling with personal issues that were reported as Leatherneck Cares referrals.
- The History department hosted its inaugural fall student reception October 10, 2023. 25 students attended a pizza party, received news on upcoming department events and scholarships, and mingled with faculty members.
- ASH and Phi Alpha Theta hosted "The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society" a presentation on Historical Research and Writing by Dr. Bob Sampson on October 26. Dr. Sampson currently works as the editor for the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.
- "Remembering the Durban Moment after fifty years: a conversation with Peter Cole," interviewed by Christopher J. Lee, *Safundi*, 12 September 2023 and 24:1 (forthcoming): 2-20.
- "The dockers who fought authoritarianism with maritime solidarity," *Maritime Solidarities: Past and Present*, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 23 September 2023.
- "Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project," Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist (virtual), Grayslake, IL, 8 October 2023.
- Historic bike tour on Chicago Race Riot of 1919, Socialism 2023 conference, Chicago, IL, 1 September 2023.
- Panelist in conjunction with exhibit "Disarm: Everyday Violence, Every Day" by Firebird Community Arts, Weinberg/Newton Gallery, Chicago, IL, 26 August 2023.
- Tim Roberts, review of *The Greek Fire: American-Ottoman Relations and Democratic Fervor in the Age of Revolutions*, by Maureen Connors Santelli (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020), *Journal of American History* 110 (September 2023): 341–342, published September 1, 2023.
- Tim Roberts, two presentations for WIU's LIFE Continuing Education program, "The Underground Railroad: The National Perspective" and "The Underground Railroad: The Local Perspective," September 7 and 14, 2023.

IES / ES PhD:

- WIU's Environmental Team, in collaboration with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, hosted a ribbon cutting and press event to announce the opening of the Corn Belt Ports office on the WIU-QC campus. This follows the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between WIU and the CBP to support collaborative work on environmental stewardship, multi-modal transportation logistics, and community and economic development. Members of the QC Chamber of Commerce, representatives from the IL Corn and Soy Growers Associations, and personnel from US Sen. Durbin, Grasley, and Ernst's offices, attended the event.
- One paper was submitted for consideration in a peer-reviewed journal. Michele Rehbein is a 2020 Environmental Science Ph.D. program graduate, and Jason Hunt is a Ph.D. candidate.
- Rehbein, M., Viadero, R., Hunt, J., and C. Miller "The Role of Key Abiotic Factors on the Abundance of Culex pipiens and West Nile Virus Infection Rate in Rural West-Central Illinois," Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association, under review, submitted September 2023.
- The Institute for Environmental Studies and the IL Institute for Rural Affairs took leadership in establishing a memorandum of agreement with the Corn Belt Ports to support research and experiential learning with America's newest federally recognized port district.

Mathematics & Philosophy:

- Dr. Brooks presented at the 2023 Midwest Annual Robert Noyce Conference in St. Louis, MO on behalf of the WIU Noyce grant team, "Creating Active Learning Environments Using Learning Assistants".
- Kathleen Felt participated in four webinars.
- Olivia Brinker is chosen as a CAS college scholar.
- A proposal to offer the mathematics major at the QC campus has been submitted to the provost's office.
- Dr. Brooks recruited a math major at the QC campus.
- Dr. Brooks met Shawn Meagher, who will now be incorporating the use of LAs in his Genetics course in the spring via funding from the Noyce grant. This helps with retention in this course and the biology major in general.
- Kathleen Felt created and taught 2 Elementary Education Content Test #305 Preparation Sessions for Elementary Education students preparing for the content exam.

Nursing:

- Nursing received their quarterly report from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and we currently have 27/27 students pass the NCLEX on the first attempt. We are at a 100% pass rate for 2023!!!
- Patricia Eathington attended the American Association of Colleges of Nursing conference in Washington DC.

- Dr. Lisa Downs organized the nursing students to partner with McDonough County Health Department and Bue Health Center to administer flu shots to our WIU Community.
- Friday, October 13, Dr. Leesa Thompson and Nursing Resources Coordinator, Danielle Knowles, organized a mass casualty drill for the senior nursing students with the WIU paramedic program. Pre-nursing students were invited to participate in this activity to play "victims". Guest speakers for the day included McDonough County paramedic (pre-hospital content) and McDonough County Corner, Eric Jameson (post-hospital content).
- September 22 WIU SON hosted administration from McDonough District Hospital and the president to enhance academic partner relationships.
- Student nurse, Jaden Beckwith, attended the 74th State convention meeting for the Student Nurses Association of Illinois and was elected as the 2nd Vice President! WIU-SON is very happy to have a WIU student serve in this position and to be a representative for all student nurses in Illinois.
- Lura Krueger organized an open house for the SON to participate in the Mega reunion and also invited the pre-nursing students to tour the school of nursing. Thirteen pre-nursing students attended the open house and they all signed up to become members of the Student Nurses Association at WIU.
- October 18 Dr. Eathington developing a new program- Pre-nursing Workshop which is designed to encourage freshman and sophomore pre-nursing students to do well in their general course work and to help build a bond with the Nursing Program and WIU.

Physics:

- Saisudha Mallur served as an expert reviewer of a manuscript submitted to an international journal "Physics and Chemistry of Glasses: European Journal of Glass Science and Technology Part B".
- Brian Davies, Kishor Kapale and E. D. Araya: "Partial solar eclipse - public viewing Oct. 14, 2023
We prepared to take astronomy equipment to the downtown Macomb Chandler Park for viewing by members of the public. Physics Club members were trained by Dr. Araya to use the solar telescopes and to manage the whole event at two locations. Dr. Kapale helps plan the event and ordered WIU Physics branded solar eclipse glasses for the event. Unfortunately, it was cloudy, and we had to cancel the event."
- Kishor T. Kapale: Currently helping transition the robotics activities from the Department of Physics to the Macomb School District from grades 2-8. Overall participation has increased from about 20 last year to 200 this year. The school district's science teachers are helping mentor the activities and Dr. Kapale is serving as a mentor and supporter to the teachers.
- Kishor T. Kapale: Started Math Olympiad activities for the middle school students in collaboration with two mathematics teachers and retired WIU Math faculty Dr. James Olson. More than 35 students of grades 6 through 8 are being served via this activity.
- E. Sanchez-Tovar, E. D. Araya, V. Rosero, P. Hofner, and S. Kurtz. 2023, "Broadband VLA Spectral-line Survey of a Sample of Ionized Jet Candidates", The Astrophysical Journal

Supplement Series, 267:43 (26pp), 2023 August
(<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2023ApJS.267...43S/abstract>)

- W. S. Tan, E. D. Araya, C. Rigg, P. Hofner, S. Kurtz, H. Linz, V. Rosero. 2023, "Excited Hydroxyl Outflow in the High-mass Star-forming Region G34.26+0.15", *The Astrophysical Journal*, 953:90 (13pp), 2023 August 10.
(<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2023ApJ...953...90T/abstract>)
- Project PHY220136 – "Student involvement in Radio Astronomy Research - using JetStream2 to reduce and analyze VLA observations". Explore Supplement NSF ACCESS request approved. Awarded Resources: ACCESS Credits: 240,000.0 ACCESS Credits. August 2023. This supplement allocation will be used to support the research activities of two graduate students (Al Evans, Punya Paudel).
- External examiner for a M.S. thesis of A. S. Nel, "Understanding the Origin of Bunny-Hop Light Curves of Periodic Methanol Masers", Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Science in Astrophysical Sciences at the North-West University, South Africa. Review process included an examiner's report, recommendation report, and detail comments on aspects to improve/correct. September 2023.
- E. D. Araya: Co-organizer of visit of Lewistown Middle-School to the Department of Physics. Responsible for creating schedule of activities, developing the astronomy-related activities and training graduate and undergraduate students to mentor the middle-school students. Sept 26, 2023.
- Saisudha Mallur: Co-organizer of visit of Lewistown Middle-School to the Department of Physics. Developed and delivered activity on the measurement of Sound. Sept 26, 2023.
- Pengqian Wang: Co-organizer of visit of Lewistown Middle-School to the Department of Physics. Developed and delivered activity on the phenomena of holography. Sept 26, 2023.
- Kishor T. Kapale: Co-organizer of the visit of Lewistown Middle-School to the Department of Physics. Managed the visit schedule and other logistics of the visit, carried out an introductory set of activities with the students based on simple physics puzzles, and arranged a visit of the admissions office staff to meet with the visiting students.
- Kishor T. Kapale: Currently helping transition the robotics activities from the Department of Physics to the Macomb School District from grades 2-8. Overall participation has increased from about 20 last year to 200 this year. The school district's science teachers are helping mentor the activities and Dr. Kapale is serving as a mentor and supporter to the teachers.
- Kishor T. Kapale: Started Math Olympiad activities for the middle school students in collaboration with two mathematics teachers and retired WIU Math faculty Dr. James Olson. More than 30 students of graded 6 through 8 are being served via this activity.

Political Science:

- Greg Baldi completed an article peer review for the journal "European Politics and Society"
- Casey LaFrance served as peer reviewer for State Policy Levers for Reducing Effective Marginal Tax Rates and Increasing Resource Floors. Submitted to State & Local Government Review 10/26/23
- Casey LaFrance - "More Candidates and Fewer Voters: How an Abundance of Choice Demobilizes the Electorate" American Politics Research, 10/18/23
- Casey LaFrance – Ray's Hour – A civic engagement and leadership series resource for personal growth. The topic for October was University Counseling Center – Resources for students and ways to anticipate needs. Disciplinary Connections: Emotional Labor/Burnout & Self Care as public service. Case Study: Hidden Burdens.
- Pre-Law Symposium – Justice Mary K. O'Brien, Distinguished WIU Alumna from the Political Science Department, was the keynote speaker. Abigail Broze - WIU B.A. Political Science 2017, Nashuba Hudson - WIU BA Political Science 2020, Arsenio L. Mims - WIU, B.A. Political Science 2011 were on the Distinguished Panel.
- Ghoshia Kiyani published a paper on August 27, 2023. The title of the Paper is Economic Sanctions and Civil-Military Relations in Target Countries. The journal's name is Armed Forces and Society and here is a link to the paper.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0095327X231192359>
- Richard Hardy supervised 43 research posters and served as the moderator for Constitution Day.
- Casey LaFrance completed Paperclip Communications, "Implicit Bias & MicroAggression Training" Rev Dr. Jamie Washington 10/12/23 (Hosted by WIU JIDE).
- Casey LaFrance has facilitated a civic engagement workshop series, "Ray's Hour (Voices)" as a pilot for Summer Stipend Project. Two workshops with Writing Center and JIDE office have taken place, with the third scheduled for 10/10 with the University Counseling Center.
- Casey LaFrance, along with WIU JIDE and the Initiatives in Accessibility Committee, has secured an ASD/Neurodivergent sensory room on the WIU campus for a pilot project beginning Spring 24.
- WIU POLS has established an internship with Camp Liberty, an equine therapy nonprofit in Marietta. These complement recent internships with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the Humane Society of McDonough County Illinois.
- Jongho Lee made a presentation titled "The Framers' View on Ordinary Citizens" on this year's Constitution Day panel.
- Julia Albarracin hosted International Day of Peace event.
- Political Science major Angel Obasoyin served as a Constitution Day panelist
- Held department picnic for majors/minors/graduate students

Psychology:

- Dr. Kim McClure was awarded a Department of Justice grant through its Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) for \$747,198.00. The goal of the grant project is to offer police officers evidence-based de-escalation content and scenario-based practice with feedback and performance reflection. This proposal involves optimizing educational approaches (e.g., online, virtual scenario-based applications) for officer communication, self-regulation, responses and decision making, and safety in service to community members. A novel aspect of the proposal is incorporating community feedback on de-escalation curriculum content and scenarios.
- Publication: *Marshall, R. L., DiLalla, L. F., Harbke, C. R., & Pali, E. C. (2023). Genetic and familial influences on self-perception in childhood and self-esteem in adulthood: A cross-sectional analysis. *Twin Research and Human Genetics*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1017/thg.2023.44>
- Manuscripts submitted and under review:
- *Wüstefeld, P., Intrieri, R. C., & Goodwin, P. E. (2023). Daily experiences of dementia caregivers: daily affect and stress and the role of attachment and relationship quality. (Under Review).
- *Wüstefeld, P., Intrieri, R. C., & Goodwin, P. E. (2023). The relationship between attachment, remote classes, and adjustment to college. *Current Psychology* (Under Review).
- *former WIU student
- Two students (Kaitlyn Eliis and Ilayzia Walton) were awarded scholarships to help develop Peer Counseling support program as part of a collaboration between Hotline and the University Counseling Center.
- Two undergraduates submitted conference proposals to the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association.
- The Psychology major's two categories of directed electives were expanded to include more courses in each category. This is to make it easier for students to complete their directed electives in a timely manner.
- Graduate recruitment events for WIU to the Psychology Club/ Psi Chi and to the students in Hotline. Each group had about 15-20 undergraduate students in each meeting.
- Chloe Whited is the second recipient of the Frank Fulkerson Transfer Student Scholarship.
- Approval of new course PSY 510 Foundations in Applied Behavior Analysis.
- Hotline was approved as a new course number (Psy 486) renamed Crisis Internship Hotline in Psychology. In collaboration with University Counseling Center, Hotline students will start providing in-person peer counseling next semester on a limited basis.
- Recruitment Initiatives- Recruitment for grad programs in CCMH and SSP have included outreach to our alumni in outlying states to help us connect with some of the local colleges that we can plug our grad programs to (and expand our IL reach) to our surrounding states

- All Psychology majors in Introductory Psychology classes were contacted in Week 4 by their professor to remind them about the importance of that core class and to offer to meet if they were struggling in class.

Race, Religion, and Multidisciplinary Studies:

- Dr. Amy Carr published *Ordinary Faith in Polarized Times: Justification and the Pursuit of Justice*, which she co-authored with Prof. Christine Helmer of Northwestern University (Baylor University Press). Dr. Carr and Dr. Helmer also were interviewed on a podcast, *Currents in Religion: "Theology, Ethics, and a Church in Conflict: A Conversation with Amy Carr and Christine Helmer,"*
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/currents-in-religion/id1648052085?i=1000631232401>
- The Religious Studies student organization RELICS hosted a Zoom speaker on Wednesday, November 1, from 4-5 p.m. Dr. Tazeen Ali, of Washington University's Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, presented on her book, "The Women's Mosque of America." The Mary Olive Woods Trust provided funds to support the lecture.
- Instructor of African American Studies Dr. Sharon Hunter and RRG&MS Interim Chair Betsy Perabo hosted an Open House/Information Session for the African American Studies Program on October 4.
- The Women's Studies Program, led by Dr. Lori Baker-Sperry, awarded both a scholarship and book award to student Alisha Stewart.
- Dr. Sharon Hunter joined the department as a full-time Instructor in African American Studies.
- Professor of Religious Studies Betsy Perabo became interim Chair of the RRG&MS Department.
- Dr. Amy Carr published "Weeping together: Amy Carr reflects on mutual vulnerability and forgiveness in a changing climate," *Lutherans Restoring Creation Lectionary Commentary*:
<https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/sunday-september-11-17-year-a-carr23/>
- The Religious and Cultural Scholars Club (RELICS), a student-led Religious Studies organization, held several meetings on Zoom, discussing such topics as the Egyptian Book of the Dead. The group also organized a field trip to the former utopian community at Bishop Hill.
- Religious Studies minors Kali Becker, Maribell Cunningham, Summer Javadi, Georgiana Reedy, and Steven Wright were awarded Mary Olive Woods Scholarships. Anna Lucken, an MLAS Student concentrating in Religious Studies, and Cristina Parker, a Cannabis and Culture Minor currently taking a Religious Studies class, also received MOW awards.

Sociology and Anthropology:

- Gordon Chang was elected as ASA Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis Section Council Member.
- Jacob Skousen contributed to two presentations and one poster session at a recent conference:
 - 2023 Locality and Cahokian Spirituality in the Illinois River Valley. Paper presented at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Tuscaloosa, Tennessee. (J. Skousen, L. Pappenfort)
 - 2023 Orr-Herl: Sitting on Top of the Underworld. Paper presented at the 81st Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Tuscaloosa, Tennessee (S. Boles, R. McCullough, T. Brennan, J. Skousen, and E. Benson)
 - 2023 Microstratigraphy for Microhistories: Geoarchaeological Insights from the F49 Pit Feature at the Noble-Wieting (11ML24) Cultural Site in Central Illinois. Poster presented at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee. (M. Aiuvalasit, J. Skousen, B. Ritchison, and N. Bergerhouse)
- Heather McIlvaine-Newsad contributed an article to The Daily Climate https://www.dailyclimate.org/climate-change-and-soil-nutrient-loss-2665849636.html?fbclid=IwAR3IP6K5GA71dCE1HA-aRB8uemBak7Iz9VeU_y025QDGvIUSGtix68Jpcz8
- Fall Department Scholars selected
 - Anthropology – Beth Cranston
 - Sociology – Amy Bull
- Jacob Skousen and Christina Davis led an archaeology table demonstration at Spoon River College (Macomb) on 10/17
- Anthropology BA Program received CAS Recruitment and Retention Grant
- Sociology BA Program received CAS Recruitment and Retention Grant
- Sociology MA Program received CAS Recruitment and Retention Grant
- DEI Intern Grad student Jennifer Ofoe, Beate Wilson, and Christina Davis organized an event highlighting ANTH and SOC Internships for WIU students Oct. 18. Lora Wallace, Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, and Grad student Asia Billingslea were panelists.
- Christina Davis (with co-author Chaise LaDousa) published "Ideologies of Mother Tongue at an Indian University" in the inaugural issue of the Journal of Education, Language, and Ideology (JELI) in September 2023.
- Andrea Alveshere was named the Director of the Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Strategic Planning.
- The Department Student Recruitment and Retention Committee held a welcome event for students on 9/13.
- The Anthropology program held a Hands-On Anthropology September 25. Students tried archaeological activities including flint knapping and pottery making.
- Student ambassadors were named for 2023-2024 academic year: Ellie McBride, Brianna Jones, Sylvia Angelova, Christopher Dillon, Jennifer Ofoe.

- Both of our BA programs (Sociology and Anthropology) participated in the Major and Minor fair on September 13.
- Sociology Graduate students Ebenezer Mensa and Jennifer Ofoe led an event on 9/29 "Why Graduate School at WIU."

College of Business and Technology

Manure Grant Awarded - Professor Winthrop Phippen of the School of Agriculture was awarded a five-year grant titled "Manure to Bio-Char Nutrient Management on-farm trials". Dr. Phippen will be working with Quality Flow Inc. for this five-year \$900,000+ grant to study the effects of Bio-Char in managing nutrient management in production agriculture practices. It will start in May of 2024 and continue until April of 2029.

Livestock Center Facility Improvement - The School of Agriculture received a \$10,000 Compeer Community Building Grant to support an ongoing facility improvement project at the Livestock Center at the University Farm. This facility is one of the School of Agriculture's marquee facilities for recruitment and outreach events and renovations will positively impact the perceptions of visiting students. Additional funding from the Illinois Farm Bureau previously supported the acquisition of updated classroom technology that will greatly enhance instructional effectiveness.

2nd Annual REALS - The School of Accounting, Finance, Economics, & Decision Sciences hosted the second annual Real Estate & Appraisals Learning Summit (REALS) on Thursday, September 28. The summit featured presentations from finance alumni on real estate investment, appraisals, and market outlook, and open Q&A time with regional industry professionals. The highlight of the day featured a keynote luncheon with a senior economist from the Federal Reserve Bank as she presented the regional real estate market outlook to the broader professional community. Throughout the day over two dozen members of the business community engaged with WIU students.

SHRM Aligned Curriculum - The Human Resource Management (HRM) program at WIU recently renewed its curriculum alignment with the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM). This recognition designates WIU as an official site to offer HR professionals continuing education credits (CPEs) for participation in HRM classes and activities. This announcement is further cause for celebration as the program recently celebrated its 57-year history on the Macomb campus and 10-year history on the QC campus on Thursday, November 2. The celebration featured a reception with various WIU dignitaries, a panel presentation on managing and implementing internship programs, and networking with over 3 dozen human resource professionals.

Economics Day 2023 was held on Tuesday, October 17, and featured 5 alumni in presentations on job opportunities in the field of economics and their overall professional experiences. The event culminated in a broader School of Accounting, Finance, Economics, & Decision Sciences open house outside Stipes Hall. Over 220 students attended the events and networked with our alumni.

CEO Project/Midland Institute Partners with CBT - The College of Business & Technology welcomed four regional high-school CEO programs to Stipes Hall for an inaugural CEO Summit on Friday, November 10. The event featured students from the CEO programs in McDonough County, Central Illinois, Brown-Schuyler, and Knox County. These entrepreneurial-minded students received advice from distinguished alum and founder of WestWave Capital LLC, Mr. Warren "Bunny" Weiss, and learned about branding from

Ms. Cathy Onion and Mr. Tim Rice. The summit provided the students an opportunity to build their network, hone their business skills, and explore the broader WIU campus.

Executive in Residence: Jack Kolosky - In keeping with a tradition of excellence, The College of Business and Technology was pleased to host Mr. Jack Kolosky as the 2023 Executive in Residence. His distinguished career is a poignant illustration of the guiding principles that define exemplary leadership in today's global service economy. Mr. Kolosky is currently the Executive Director of the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers. In prior roles, Mr. Kolosky served as the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer of Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL, and served as the President of Moffitt Hospital. Mr. Kolosky received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from Western Illinois University and an MBA in Finance from Drake University. He holds a Certificate from the Harvard University School of Public Health and is a Certified Public Accountant. Of the 130 student attendees at the Executive in Residence event held on October 30th, 23.5% were first generation students, 21.9% were international students, and 22.9% were transfer students. Students from all 4 colleges were represented including special invitees from the School of Nursing.

Caterpillar Appoints Chief Operating Officer – WIU College of Business and Technology alumni, Joseph E. Creed, group president of Energy & Transportation, was appointed to the newly created position of chief operating officer, effective Nov. 1, 2023, for Caterpillar, Inc. In this newly created position, Creed will report to Jim Umpleby, chairman and chief executive officer. His extensive financial experience across Caterpillar's engine and machine businesses, combined with his leadership of our Energy & Transportation segment, position him well for his new role," said Caterpillar Chairman and CEO Jim Umpleby. "Joe will help lead the continued execution of our strategy for profitable growth and pursue the market opportunities associated with the energy transition and growing global energy demand." Creed serves on the Western Illinois University President's National Advisory Council, was named as the 2021 College of Business and Technology Ferguson Lecturer, is an executive board member of the Caterpillar Foundation, and is the executive sponsor of the Caterpillar Employee Resource Group known as ADEPT (Able and Disabled Employees Partnering Together). He is also a member of the board and past chairman for Easter Seals of Central Illinois.

College of Education and Human Services

CNED/CSP

- CSP faculty fully participated in the COEHS New Student Welcome Event,
- Student Services/CSP collaborated recruitment event for WIU students over dinner September 19
- Held virtual open houses to recruit new students on 10/10 and 11/8.
- Dr. Julie Brines and Graduate Assistant Jessy Cheung are presenting at the regional recruitment event at Eastern Illinois University this month
- Educational Leadership: Organizational Justice, Equity & Inclusion - Tracy Davis interviewed and admitted 25 new students to the second cohort this semester
- Dr. Julie Brines is currently working with several other programs to develop an undergraduate minor that leads to the CSP Master's Degree.
- COHES Multicultural Teacher of the Year - Tracy Davis
- WIU Multicultural Teacher of the Year - Tracy Davis

- Dr. Julie Brines is serving as the Vice President of UPI and served on the Negotiating Executive Committee.
- Dr. Tracy Davis is serving on both the University Diversity Council and the Anti-Racism Task Force.
- Dr. Tracy Davis, one of the founders of the Educational Leadership: Organizational Justice, Equity & Inclusion doctoral program is currently chairing 7 dissertations
- Dr. Brines submitted a manuscript currently under review to a top tier scholarly journal
- Dr. Brines had peer-reviewed scholarly presentations accepted to both the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators International conference and ACPA: College Student Educators International Conference
- Dr. Davis submitted a chapter to a new book that is being published and edited by former student Dr. Dan Calhoun
- Dr. Davis created two new Qualitative Research courses: EDL 682 and EDL 683

EDUCATION

- A Virtual KDP Professional Development in Education Event was held Thursday, October 5, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- "Artificial Intelligence is on the rise and can drastically impact educators and how they operate their classrooms." Sessions facilitated by Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Dr. Abha Singh, Dr. Melissa Stinnett, Danielle Harris, Special Education Senior and Dr. Jim LaPrad
- The SOE applied for GYO Teachers Planning Grant and we are in the process of building our 2+2 agreements to streamline our teacher education preparation pipeline with the following Community Colleges: Blackhawk Community College, Spoon River College, John Wood Community College and Carl Sandburg College as partners in our facilitation grant.
- WIU hosted a Future Teachers Day on Friday, October 27 at its Macomb campus. We were excited to have a day at WIU that is centered on students who are interested in becoming future teachers. Students had the opportunity to learn about WIU's teacher education programs, tour campus, and attend a mock education class. They also learned about WIU's scholarship programs, including the Great River Teacher Corp. High school students had the opportunity to meet with current College students during the lunch session where we provided students with a free boxed lunch. We focused on getting students excited about becoming teachers. At the end of the day, students were invited to attend the Seymour Rural Education Celebration.
- School of Education hosted Crew Lunch with the Director that began the week of Oct 2, crews of 3-4 students, have scheduled a 30-minute Lunch Meeting with Dr. LaPrad in the School of Education, HH 115

HSSW

- Social Work Student Events
 - September 26, Social Work Connections event- Cara Cerullo, Director of UCC, presented on the Importance of Self-Care in Social Work
 - October 3, Phi Alpha Honor Society Soda Bar and Study Session – 32 students in attendance
 - October 13, Phi Alpha Honor Society Induction Ceremony
 - October 14, SWSA, & Phi Alpha had a float in the WIU Homecoming parade
 - October 16, SW Student Diversity Council hosted a Pizza Party and Scavenger Hunt
- Dr. Katherine Perone and Dr. Debra Allwardt presented a poster at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) 69th Annual Program Meeting on October 26-29, 2023. The poster title was "Exploring Intersections of Environmental Justice, Racism, and Policy in Social Work Practicum." The project was funded by a grant from CSWE with the New York Community Trust.
- Western Illinois University was recently recognized by the American Public Health Association (APHA) with a Student Champions for Climate Justice Award. Damilola Oluwemimo, Vivian Unachukwu, Oluwafemi Yekinni, Victor Kehinde and Christianah Diyaolu, all of Nigeria, and all WIU Public Health graduate students, wrote a proposal under the supervision of graduate student advisor Maureen Bezold for the Climate Justice and Health Equity Award
- MPH Student Events
 - October 6 & November 10 - Journal Club Meetings – students learn about research and the writing process
 - October 18 - Walk for Health Equity
 - October 19 - Climate Justice and Health Equity Panel Discussion
 - October 18 & 19 - Signing of the Climate Justice and Health Equity Petition being sent to U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth of Illinois

KIN

- Physical Education Teacher Education student Eduardo Rios Martinez was selected as College Scholar. This is the second semester running that a Kinesiology major was named College Scholar.
- Physical Education Teacher Education held its 3rd Annual WIU Physical Education Professional Development Conference October 13th. There were many inclusion strategies presented including Unified PE, Circus Arts, Behavior Management Strategies, and Sport Education. Kinesiology faculty presentations were given by Dr. Gabbei *Unified PE Methods*, Dr. Wang *Social Emotional Learning through Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility Model*, and Dr. Bories *Inclusion through Circus Arts*.
- Dr. Gabbei plans and organizes the event with assistance from Dr. Wang.
- Dr. Gabbei and Dr Wang will be taking about 15 Physical Education Teacher Education students to the annual IAHPERD Convention in Chicago at the end of November. The students will give presentations and attend various sessions and workshops.

- Campus Recreation, Physical Education Teacher Education and Phi Kappa Phi hosted the WIU Unified Volleyball event on October 28th. The event was conducted in conjunction with Special Olympics Unified Sports. Dr. Gabbei and Dr. Wang organized the event.
- Dr. Jiyoung Park presented at the NASSS conference in New Orleans on November 3rd, 2023: *Examining prominent NIL athletes social media posts and personal branding effort: Perspectives from the Model of Athlete Brand Image*. Also moderated the session: *Contemporary Issues Surrounding Female College Athletes*.
- Dr. Miguel Narveaz presented *The use of elastic band for conditioning* at the October 2nd XVI International Human Motricity Human Congress in Talac, Chile.
- Dr. Baofu Wang applied for a Summer stipend for the project *"The impact of mentoring relationships on career development of female graduate assistants working in intercollegiate athletics."*
- Dr. Tim Piper attended the Health Summit at Carl Sandburg College on October 22nd for recruiting.
- This Fall, the Nutrition & Dietetics Food Pantry has been distributing about 3,000 pounds of food to an average of 300 students per week.
- The department has emailed more than 300 digital recruitment postcards to prospects and freshmen admits.
- The department mailed graduate student recruitment flyers to about 30 colleges and universities in the region.
- The department mailed SCUBA instructor recruitment flyers to about 30 scuba diving shops in the region.

LEJA

- The School of LEJA offered an extremely popular class for public safety professionals and students to obtain their FAA Part 107 certification so that they may use drones in all public safety initiatives. The follow up class where these professionals and students will practice flying the drones in simulated search and rescue operations is scheduled for early December,
- On November 15, 2023, students taking EMT and paramedic classes will participate in a full day training where they will practice their skills and competencies. ambulance.

RPTH

- Dr. Jeremy Robinett was selected as one of the top 40 Veteran Champions of the Year in Higher Education for 2023 by G.I. Jobs
- Ms. Mindy Pheiffer, Program Coordinator at Horn Field Campus, hosted a very successful Haunted Trail event in addition to the many groups that make use of HFC for outdoor education and team building.
- Dr. Minsun Doh was the recipient of the 2023 Provost's Award for Excellence in University/Community Service.
- Dr. Megan Owens submitted a grant seeking funding for three years to work with the ASAE Research Foundation to better understand building equity in and amongst park districts.

- Dr. Rob Porter, along with Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, has researched and published on the impact of Covid-19 on the health and sustainability of the tourism industry in Pinellas County Florida. This work has also aided the research of RPTH graduate student Emma Fleming.
- Ms. Jill Cassady has continued to grow the popularity of the Western Area Career System (WACS) program to a level where a second section was needed to teach and engage local high school students in the Culinary Arts.
- RPTH has hosted, and will continue to host, community building events for its students, faculty, and staff this year with the next event on 12/7 - Holiday Junk Food Fest. Thus far, there have been 2 winners of the coveted "Golden Spoon/Spatula."
- RPTH continues to assist throughout the communities it serves with professional expertise while allowing opportunities for students to engage in hands on learning. Recent examples include evaluation at the Macomb Park District Pumpkin Smash and staffing the Haunted Trail at HFC.
- RPTH will be hosting "Pizza with Practitioners" beginning in December to allow for interaction, networking and relationship building with professionals in the field.

College of Fine Arts and Communication

Attendance is returning from COVID times as audiences and prospective students. Performances, recitals, lecture presentations and recruiting events, so far just for the 2023 Fall semester we have racked up an impressive attendance/participation rate with just over 11,200 people on our campus.

The Center for Performing Arts is rising up from what was a massive dig twelve months ago to a monument of concrete and steel.



The curved orchestra pit beam arrived Monday, 06 November. It is 50" tall x 80' long and weighs in at an impressive 40,000 pounds.

Department of Art and Design



First Wednesday's continue to be a huge success. This program allows all ages 6-96 to participate in numerous artistic endeavors each first Wednesday evening of the month. October 27th, Art and Design Hosted High School Portfolio Day, where Art Students portfolios are evaluated by WIU faculty on our campus. 80-100 High School Art Students had an opportunity to have their work juried by WIU faculty professionals.

Department of Broadcasting and Journalism

- Sports Broadcasting students continue exemplary hands-on coverage of Leatherneck Athletics, as part of our multifaceted partnership with ESPN & Ross.
- Professor Ellwood "Chip" Egan adds: "Game Replay Officials have said the students are doing excellent work and continue to use our students' camera angles when a replay call is necessary during a game."
- Jaycie Doerr (junior, Broadcasting & Journalism) attended the Mid-America Emmy Awards Saturday in Branson, Missouri, where she was presented two journalism scholarships, including the Walter Cronkite Scholarship. She also received the Michael Hardgroves Scholarship.
- Dr. Eun Go received a 2024 Summer Stipend from Western Illinois University. She will use the stipend to research the ongoing impact of public relations in broadcasting and journalism.

- Dr. Pam Peters received a Provosts Travel Award to present original research at the Broadcast Education Association annual conference, which was held in October at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.
- Dr. Peter Gloviczki will present research about the evolving mobile, social and digital broadcasting and journalism environment to graduate students at the University of Ottawa in November.

Department of Communication

- The Department of Communication hosted its 15th annual Communication Career Preparation Day. The event was attended by 73 students and brought back to campus six Communication alumni who shared their wisdom and experiences with our current students. The keynote was delivered by alum Jaquee Wahler, Vice President of Communications for Walt Disney World Resorts.
- Dr. Chris Carpenter (QC) delivered the 31st annual Thompson Professor Lecture, entitled "When sharing memes backfires: The role of social media memes in increasing polarization."
- The Social Media Lab in the Department of Communication is working to promote the benefits of high-speed internet connectivity to rural areas. This grant-funded program is helping faculty and students to develop hands-on experience in creating and managing social media accounts.

Department of Museum Studies

- Museum Studies successfully hosted the Iowa Museum Association Annual 2023 Conference, Power of Place, on the WIU Quad Cities campus on October 3, 2023. The conference was held in the QC on October 1-3, 2023 and included:
 - Over 150 museum professionals, including 30 WIU museum studies graduate students, faculty, and program alumni.
 - 22 professional sessions with over 30 session speakers at four locations, including the German American Heritage Museum, the Figge Art Museum, the Putnam Museum, and the WIU-QC campus.
 - WIU Museum Studies Program Alumna Clare Tobin, Assistant Director of the German American Heritage Museum, received the Iowa Museum Association Rising Star Award during the Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference.
- Dr. Heidi Lung, "STEPS IMA: Reflections." Presentation at the Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference at the Figge Art Museum, Davenport, Iowa, October 2, 2023.
- Dr. Heidi Lung and museum studies graduate students Zachary Baraglia, Anna Griswold, Alex Nasharr, Elijah Sadler, "Learning from Luchadores: WIU Student Reflections on a Community Art Installation." Presentation at the Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference at the WIU-QC Campus, Moline, IL, October 3, 2023.
- Dr. Angela McClanahan-Simmons, "Things in Place: Revisiting Biographical Objects." Presentation at the Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference at the WIU-QC Campus, Moline, IL, October 3, 2023.
- Dr. Heidi Lung, "The Future of Community Museums." Presentation for the Amana Heritage Society 2023 annual member meeting, October 19, 2023.
- Dr. Heidi Lung, "Our Community Museums." Presentation for the Kiwanis Club of Moline, October 24, 2023.
- Dr. Angela McClanahan-Simmons publication (October 25, 2023): "Project Loops, Edgelands and the Permanent Reimagining of Landscape"; in Journal of Contemporary Archaeology: <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/JCA/article/view/25829>
- The Graduate Experience in Museum Studies student group and Museum Studies Department hosted a pizza and movie night for students, their families, and alumni on October 26.
- The department participated in Student Night at the Figge as part of the Saint Ambrose University night on November 9. Current students and faculty engaged with undergraduates at SAU, sharing information about the WIU Museum Studies and SAU 4+1 degree.

- On December 7, the Graduate Experience in Museum Studies and Museum Studies Department will host alumna and speaker Clare Tobin, Assistant Director of the German American Heritage Museum. It will also recognize December MA graduates in an awards ceremony.
- Five students will earn their MA in Museum Studies in December 2023: Zackary Baraglia, Julia Gabbard, Mercedes Hynick, Alex Nasharr, and Lindsey VanDieren.
- Planning for an annual spring 2024 Museum Career Symposium for WIU Museum Studies students, alumni, and undergraduate students from colleges and universities throughout the region interested in museum careers and graduate museum studies at WIU.

School of Music



- The School of Music hosted several festivals and special events in the fall semester that welcomed thousands of people to campus. Over 3500 prospective students, parents, and community members attended the Marching Band Classic on October 21. WIU hosted the ILMEA District IV Festival on November 4, which attracted approximately 5,000 people to campus, including talented students, their parents, and regional educators. Other highlights include the Holiday Festival of Choirs in December, Discovery Day for prospective music majors, and numerous guest artist performances in COFAC Recital Hall.
- The University Singers under the direction of Dr. Brian Winnie will perform at the Midwestern American Choral Directors Association Conference in February. The University Singers are one of only a few collegiate choirs to be invited following a competitive application process including hundreds of submissions from ensembles across 10 states.
- Dr. Alfonzo Cooper, Jr., and Professor Linda Andrews presented a recital on October 22 at the First Presbyterian Church featuring the world premiere of a commissioned work in honor of civil rights leader C.T. Vivian. The work, titled *Portraits of Peace*, was composed by Sharon J. Willis. The composer and two of Vivian's children attended the event.

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Our American Sign Language minor has become one of the fastest growing minors on campus. Clinic outreach continues to grow. Over 4000 patients in the last year. Additional support initiatives



including the Autism Clinic, Comfort Circle, a support group for parents and caregivers of children with special abilities, and the Motor Skills Clinic are additional ways SPA connects with the public offering unique services for our clients and learning opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students alike.

Department of Theatre and Dance



Faculty, Staff, Alumni Event
 THE WIZ starring Melody Betts (MFA 2009)
 At the Cadillac Palace Theatre
 08 December 2023

LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival

Irene Ryan Nominees: (Acting)

- Nora Wragg
- Erik Larsen

Student Design/Tech Nominations:

- Shelby Doyle – Costume Design
- Kimani Gordon – Lighting Design
- Mikey McNamara – Stage Management

Faculty Nominations:

- Lisa Wipperlng – Directing

Additional Nominations for

- Celebration of Associate Productions
- Costume Parade (May/Raleigh Scene 1)

And the Dean of the College designed the scenery for the production (my first scenic design in 13 years)

WE ARE P*\$\$Y RIOT or Everything is PR

Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival

Irene Ryan Nominees:

- Elizabeth Huntley
- Eva Albright

Certificate of Merit:

- Rio Canas - Excellence in Costume Design
- Bryan Zipp - Excellence in Lighting Design
- Ensemble - Excellence in Ensemble Production
- Emma Wahlmann - Excellence in Stage Management

Additional Nominations for

- Celebration of Associate Production - Recommend the trial scenes
- Costume Parade - The ensemble

Donald Laney – Head of Dance/Faculty

West Virginia Dance Company performance of FestiFALL (Oct.2023)

West Virginia Wesleyan Dance Company performance of FestiFALL (Nov. 2023)

Beckley Dance Company production of the NUTCRACKER (Nov. & Dec. 2023)

Josh Wroblewski – Lighting Design Faculty

Omaha Playhouse lighting designer for the production of BEAUTIFUL: THE MUSICAL

Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs

A Governor’s Executive Order signed in 1991 and reaffirmed again in 2011 describes the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs as, “the State’s academic clearinghouse for rural development data and initiatives.” This executive order helps to define and guide the IIRA research, teaching, and outreach mission to promote rural community and economic development.

IIRA Research

The IIRA regularly publishes peer-reviewed articles, books, and technical briefs. The Rural Research Report and Rural Research Briefs are available on the IIRA website: <https://iira.org>. Here are several research briefs the IIRA published in the last three months.

1. **Urban-Rural Differences in Mental Health Concerns: Findings from a Survey of the American General Population.** This research provides stylized facts about mental health in the metro and the nonmetro and thus opens pathways for further research on the topic; survey data from the National Alliance on Mental Illness were used to gain insights into residents' perceptions / knowledge about mental health. Results of data analysis suggest that "mental healthcare" is a worrisome topic for more of the metro residents than the nonmetro ones. Furthermore, increasing federal and state funding for mental health care is strongly supported by metro residents, but not so strongly by nonmetro residents.
2. **Exploring the Other Side of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia: Informal Caregivers.** This paper investigates metro-nonmetro differences in caregiving for sufferers of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia. Based on the reasoning that caregiving is learned vicariously, for example, through observation, differences in both observer characteristics and external reinforcement were analyzed for both the geographies. Data are from the National Health and Aging Trends Study. Data analysis suggests that a typical caregiver is a female age 50 and above with a high school education. On average, caregivers in the metro work for longer hours, 6 hours per day in the metro compared to 4 hours in the nonmetro.
3. **An Empirical Analysis of Financial Hardship Associated with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia: Metro and Nonmetro Patients.** This paper explores financial hardships among ADRD patients using data from the National Health and Aging Trends Study. Results of data analysis indicate financial hardship among the non-Whites and the 75-84-year-old patients.
4. **Beliefs about Dementia and Risk-Reducing Behavior: An Empirical Analysis of Adults Age 40 and Above in the Midwest, Metro versus Nonmetro.** This paper uses microdata from the AARP survey on the Perceptions Related to a Dementia Diagnosis: Adults Age 40+ to explore the characteristics of Midwesterners who believe that they are at higher risk of dementia; both metro and nonmetro geographies were studied. Data analysis shows that 17% of the Midwesterners harbor the belief that they are at higher risk of dementia and intake of medicine to help with memory interferes with engaging in dementia risk-reducing behavior.
5. **Cost of Dementia in Illinois: Metro versus Nonmetro.** This paper explores metro-nonmetro differences in the prevalence of Alzheimer's dementia. Data analysis suggests that more nonmetro Illinoisans experience cognitive difficulties; dementia is less of a concern for metro residents, men, and for persons not enrolled in Medicare / Medicaid Programs; and Alzheimer's dementia cost is estimated at \$76.9billion.

IIRA External Grants and Outreach

- 1. USDA-Rural Development Grant--\$200,000.** The IIRA secured a \$200,000 grant from the Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program, which is funded through the USDA office of Rural Development. This funding will help the IIRA provide technical assistance to communities, farmers, and other entities interested in starting up consumer or producer cooperatives.
- 2. Cooperative Development.** The IIRA provides technical assistance to communities seeking to start up cooperatives or to promote local food systems. The IIRA recently helped Sheffield, Illinois, open a grocery store. The **Washington Post** reported on this initiative. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2023/08/31/royal-super-mart-sheffield-illinois/>. The IIRA will be offering a series of workshops in the region focused on local food production. The first workshop took place on November 28. Other workshops will take place on December 5, 12, and 19.
- 3. Economic Impact Analyses.** Eastern Illinois University (EIU) has contracted with the IIRA to conduct an economic impact analysis to measure the impact EIU has on a multicounty region in eastern Illinois. This is a follow up study to an impact analysis IIRA did for EIU back in 2017. The IIRA is also conducting an economic impact analysis for the Illinois Corn Marketing Board.
- 4. Strategic Visioning / Community Planning.** The IIRA is currently working with the community of Paxton, Illinois, to help residents create a community economic development plan. The local media is reporting on this community planning effort: <https://www.fordcountychronicle.com/articles/featured/paxtons-vision-for-future-to-focus-on-housing-infrastructure-recreation-business-development/>.
- 5. Business Development.** The IIRA / WIU operates two Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), one on each of the WIU campuses. The SBDCs provide one-on-one counseling for fledgling entrepreneurs looking for business planning assistance. The SBDCs also offer workshops and webinars. Recently, the SBDCs have offered bilingual English / Spanish workshops on digital Point of Sale (POS) systems such as square: https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=19538. The SBDC in Macomb is working with the City of Macomb to plan and host a business pitch competition in Spring 2024. The goal of the business pitch program is to invite entrepreneurs interested in starting a new business to participate in business planning workshops. Once they complete the workshops, entrepreneurs vie for startup funding in a "shark tank" like competition.
- 6. Governors Rural Affairs Council (GRAC).** The GRAC is chaired by Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. The IIRA has been a member of the GRAC since it initially convened back in 1989. The IIRA provides research and logistical support for the GRAC. The IIRA met with the GRAC and the Lt. Governor most recently on November 2, 2023. Through the leadership of IIRA deputy director Sandy Wittig, the IIRA created a rural development resource guide, which is a searchable database of all state and federal grant, loan, and technical assistance

programs that can help rural communities, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The rural development resource guide is available on the IIRA website: <https://iira.org>.

- 7. Illinois Innovation Network.** Chris Merrett serves as the Director of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs and Dean for Economic Development and Innovation. In his role as Dean, Merrett represents WIU on the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) Council. Merrett serves on the IIN executive committee and was recently elected to serve as secretary on the IIN Council. Merrett and IIRA Deputy Director Sandy Wittig are on the IIN committee planning the 2024 IIN conference on sustainable development, which Illinois State University will host on October 17-18, 2024.

University Libraries

One of our strategic objectives and actions is creating services and resources that help our students' retention rate. The literature explains that students who visit and use the library stay in schools 85% more than others. In the first two weeks of the academic year, the traffic at the WIU Libraries increased 38% by October 2023.

The Center for Undergraduate Research is a collaborative project with the Centennial Honors College to standardize undergraduate research at WIU.

Thanks to this initiative, the Center for Undergraduate Research received a private donation and a donation from the Office of the Mayor of Macomb to establish a summer research program. These donations were thanks to Centennial Honors College's support.

During the summer, two undergraduate students will research under the mentorship of two WIU faculty. The research topics need to be related to local issues.

Jade Kastel received the Academic Librarian of the Year award from the Illinois Library Association. WIU Libraries is working with emeritus professor Fred Jones to develop collections about his scholarly and creative works.

Centennial Honors College

Enrollment Management and Recruitment

The Honors College continues to work with the Office of Admissions to effectively implement strategies to attract students to join honors.

The Honors College sessions during Discover Western events have seen an increase in the number of high achieving students who are interested in joining the Honors College. This increase in interest in honors is a plus for the university. The Honors Ambassadors regularly attend and participate in the Discover Western events.

The Honors Academic Advisors attended the Salute to Illinois Scholars event in Springfield, Illinois on October 10. They have since met with a student who attended that program. The student is planning to attend WIU.

Updates and Continuing Activities

The Honors Council and CCPI recently approved GH 275, a new experimental course for the Honors College. The course will be piloted during the spring 2024 semester. The title of the course is *Design Thinking for Social Innovation and Community Engagement*. This course will require students to assist a

company/business with a problem that they need to resolve. Students will be introduced to the basics of design thinking and human centered design. WIU will be among 6 out of 14 Illinois Innovation Network universities that offer courses focused on Design Thinking/Human Centered Design.

The Honors College and the University Libraries have collaborated to form the Center for Undergraduate Research. As a result of this collaboration, the Center for Undergraduate Research will be launching a scholarship competition for students to engage in research within and outside of the western Illinois region.

The Honors College is pleased to announce the return of Honors Convocation in spring 2024. Honors Convocation ceremonies are being planned for both the Macomb and the QC campuses.

The Honors College continues to work on a strategic plan and SWOT Analysis for the college. Focus groups are being held with the various constituency groups.

The Ad hoc team has begun its review of the honors curriculum.

Events

The Honors College hosted its annual Pre-Law Symposium on October 10, 2023. The keynote speaker was Illinois Supreme Court Justice the Honorable Mary K. O'Brien. The College also host several law schools for the table fair and a distinguished panel for the event. The event was well attended and the College received very positive feedback.

Planning is underway for the annual Pre-Med Symposium, which is scheduled for March 6, 2024 in the Brattain Lounge.

Center for Global Studies

Study Abroad

Fall 2023

6 students and 1 professor will be in Austria December 31-January 9 as part of "The Hills Are Alive: Austrian Culture in Today's World" faculty-led Study Abroad Course
2 students are wrapping up their semester-long programs in Japan and France.

Spring 2024

91 students applied for Spring 2024 faculty-led courses. There was a 91% acceptance rate with some applications still to be decided.
2 students will be abroad for the entire semester--1 in Sweden and the other in Italy

Summer 2024 and beyond

2 faculty-led programs are offered by Foreign Languages: WISE Mexico and WIFI France. Both are accepting applications.
Applications for individual programs in Summer and Fall 2024 are now open for students.
Spring or Summer 2025 faculty-led proposals are now open for faculty members.

Outreach

LIFE Fall semester has wrapped up. Thirty-six (36) courses were offered resulting in 577 registrants. Revenue in the amount of \$5,580 was generated.

There are currently 5 Sponsored Credit Courses taking place this fall semester.

Two Emergency Management courses with the Schuyler County Emergency Services and Lifeguard.

Three Educational Studies courses. Two with the Moline-Coal Valley Unit School District #40 and one with Beardstown CUSD #15.

38 student registrations. Generating \$30,985.78 in revenue.

The Western Connection has been open one Year as of October 20. Over the last year it has generated \$3,399 in revenue.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/6 -- JIDE Initiatives

BSA List of Demands

- Last updated December 2023
- BSA President Jeremy Samuel is pleased with progress in most areas looking for more progress in making enrollment in two AAS classes mandatory for all students and increase in the number of Black OPS officers.

Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF)

- Comprised of faculty, staff and students. Co-chairs Dr. Lorette Oden (CHC) and Carl Ervin (JIDE)
- Results of the spring 2023 campus climate survey are to be posted by the end of fall 2023
- Town Hall Meetings to share some of the results and obtain additional feedback were held in-person w staff (9/8), faculty (9/12) community (9/14), students (9/18 & 10/16), and QC campus. (10/4)
- Received IBHE Equity Plan framework (11/9/23). Each public institution of higher education in Illinois is required to develop and implement an equity plan using the IBHE framework. Adjusting the current campus-wide diversity plan to meet the IBHE guidelines by the May 31, 2024 deadline. Completion expected by the end of April 2024.

Training

- ***Equity Tools and Resources for Faculty Engagement.*** A workshop facilitated by Dr. Julie Clemens (Illinois Central College) with an introduction by Dr. Amy Carr (WIU). Both are members of the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council. An in-person event held in Horrabin Hall and online. Audience: Faculty and staff. Dr. Clemens presented her research and information on how to foster an inclusive, equity and success focused classroom. (11.3.23)
- ***Implicit Bias and Microaggressions.*** A workshop webinar featuring the Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington. A live streaming held in the Stipes Hall auditorium and on-line. Audience: staff, faculty and students. Dr. Washington presented tools for engaging microaggressions and implicit bias, as well as strategies and best practices for responding to and recovering from perpetuating them. (10.12.23)
- ***Anti-Racism and White Privilege.*** A JIDE office presentation to the Social Work Program. An in-person training, discussion and Q&A. Audience: Social Work Program faculty and student representatives of the newly developed Social Work Program Diversity

Council. Director Ervin provided additional education on anti-racism and how white privilege shapes human experiences. (8.29.23)

- **International Student Orientation.** JIDE Director Ervin hosted an information table to distribute information and participate in a Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources and building a welcoming and supportive classroom as part of a Meet & Greet and orientation with new international students. (8.16.23)
- **New Faculty Resource Fair.** JIDE Director Ervin hosted an information table to distribute information and participate in a Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources and building a welcoming and supportive classroom as part of a Meet & Greet with new faculty. (8.15.23)
- **Inclusive Pedagogy & the Office of Justice, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity.** JIDE Director Ervin and Dr. Rebekah Buchanan, Prof. English, presented and facilitated a discussion with new faculty regarding JIDE, campus resources and ways to engage with students via inclusive pedagogical practices. (8.15.23)
- **UHDS RA Training: Campus Resource Fair.** JIDE Director Ervin hosted an information table to distribute information and participate in a Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources and inclusive programming as part of a Meet & Greet with University Housing Resident Assistants. (8.15.23)
- **OSE Graduate Staff Training.** JIDE Director Ervin participated in the new Graduate Assistant training for the Office of Student Engagement (OSE). An in-person presentation, discussion, training and Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources, inclusive programming and collaboration. (8.11.23)

Resources

- **JIDE Workshops Online.** Workshops that were presented to the WIU campus when possible, have been recorded and placed on the JIDE website for review by those that missed the session or as a refresher for those that attended the original session.
 - *Equity Tools & Resources for Faculty Engagement* (11.3.23)
 - *Implicit Bias and Microaggressions* (10.12.23)
- **Syllabus Considerations.** A handout developed by the JIDE office that offers information and suggestions on how to add a personal pronoun and/or a land acknowledgment statement to a course syllabus was announced, distributed, and made available on the JIDE website. (8.7.23)
- **Land Acknowledgements.** An acknowledgement of the lands on which the Quad Cities campus is located was added to the WIU statement which already listed the Macomb campus. This is posted on the JIDE website.
- **Initiatives in Accessibility Committee / Sensory Space.** Several offices (JIDE, the Student Government Association, the College of Arts and Sciences, the MCC, and the Political Science and Speech Pathology & Audiology Departments) have partnered to provide support for accessibility. The current focus is a sensory space for neurodivergent students. A committee was formed and a sensory space has been approved in Morgan Hall.

Activities

- **Student Government Association (SGA) Town Hall.** JIDE Director Ervin participated in a Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources and diversity at WIU as part of the SGA's town hall opportunity for students to speak directly with administration. (11.15.23)
- **Black Student Association (BSA) Living Room Conversation with Local Law Enforcement.** BSA members expressed concern about their interactions with local police. Feeling targeted and treated differently than majority students. A Living Room conversation, a term for an informal chat, was held with campus, city and state police representatives and the students. At the end of the session students relayed having improved perception of and feelings towards local law enforcement after learning more about officers as individuals and what can be done for students' concerns and safety on and off campus. (11.6.23)
- **Student Protest of Local Business.** WIU students were the victims of a racist incident at a Macomb business that was video recorded on a cellphone by one of the students. The students, led by the BSA, organized a protest march of students, faculty, staff and community members from the campus to the business. Signs and statements on justice, civility, love and community were shared at the rally near the business. Students commended WIU President Huang and Macomb Mayor Inman for their quick response and how it helped them to feel more welcomed and supported both on and off campus. (10.30.23)
- **Take Back the Night.** Director Ervin represented the JIDE office with a speech at the first half of the event and participated in a march to and rally at Chandler Park at the second half of the event. An annual event to support victims of domestic violence. (10.26.23)
- **WIU Homecoming Parade Entry.** JIDE staff marched in the WIU Homecoming Parade. To promote team spirit & community and to advertise the office, signs were displayed that announced the JIDE Office and candy was distributed to parade watchers. (10.14.23)
- **Discover Western.** JIDE Director Ervin hosted an information table to distribute information and participate in a Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources and diversity at WIU as part of Admissions Office's Discover Western Preview Day for students and their families. (10.9.23; 10.28.23; 11.11.23)
- **Ray's Hour with JIDE.** JIDE Director Ervin was the featured presenter at Ray's Hour, a civic engagement & leadership series hosted by the Political Science Department held in the Neck Lounge, University Union (9.26.23)
- **Kinder Mondays: MARVELous Monday.** The JIDE collaborated with the University Counseling Center to acknowledge and promote kindness on campus and encourage visits to the JIDE Office. (9.25.23)
- **Panel Discussion: What Does the Supreme Court Ending of Affirmative Action Mean for WIU?**
A panel discussion was held to address concerns, offer ideas, dispel misunderstandings and provide facts on what the SCOTUS decision means for WIU and for students. (9.15.23)
- **Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance: Remember 9-11.** We are reminded, inspired and most of all connected by our past. This event provided the

opportunity to learn more about a day filled with horrific acts, selfless heroism, and the coming together of people from all backgrounds to face what was a defining moment in US and world history. (9.11.23)

- **Welcome Community Walkthrough.** JIDE joined WIU staff and community member in delivering welcome bags & greetings to residents near campus and promoting a sense of welcome and community. (9.7.23)
- **International Day of Charity featuring WIU mascot Ray.** The JIDE office held an event that brought together students, faculty, and staff from every background and identity for a good cause. There was the opportunity to meet WIU mascot Ray, enhance group connections, promote team spirit and contribute to a fund that helps to support Ray. (9.5.23)
- **Black Student Association (BSA) and JIDE.** Director Ervin met with the BSA for a presentation and Q&A. Topics discussed included the JIDE office, diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, social justice, advocacy, anti-racism, hate speech, campus resources (mental health and academic support), Black excellence and more. (8.29.23)
- **National Day of Thoughtfulness.** The JIDE office promoted an appreciation for others and a sense of welcome by creating and distributing postcards that told how to say hello in the various languages from the different countries represented at WIU. (8.28.23)
- **Student Organization Fair.** JIDE Director Ervin hosted an information table and participated in an opportunity to meet new and returning students and share information on the JIDE Office. (8.21.23)

Collaborations

Anti-Racism Task Force * Black Faculty and Staff Association * Black Student Association * Casa Latina Cultural Center * Center for Global Studies * College Chapter NAACP * College Student Personnel * Department of Race, Religion, Gender and Multidisciplinary Studies * Facilities Management * Faculty Senate * Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center * Human Resources * Institutional Research and Planning * Intercollegiate Athletics * LGBT*QA Resource Center * Multicultural Center * Office of Equal Opportunity and Access * Office of General Counsel * Office of Public Safety * Office of Student Engagement * Office of the President * Political Science Department * Preeminent Gentlemen's Society * Psychology Department * School of Engineering and Technology * Shared Community Action Committee * Social Work * Student Development and Success Center * Student Government Association * Student Success * Undergraduate Admissions * University Communications and Marketing * University Committee on Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression * University Counseling Center * University Diversity Council * University Housing and Dining Services * University Technology * University Union * Veterans Resource Center * WIU Quad Cities * Women's Center

Survey Results

Implicit Bias and Microaggressions Workshop with Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington.

- In-person attendance- 32. Online attendance – unknown. Visits to online recording - unknown
- The overwhelming majority of those that completed the survey indicated having increased their knowledge of implicit bias and microaggressions and having learned how to foster respectful interactions

	Yes	No
I can recognize how my own identities play a role in my biases.	29	
I can define and recognize microaggressions in order to interrupt them.	26	1
I know how to respond and recover from perpetuating a microaggression or implicit bias.	26	1
I recognize the intent vs. impact of any interaction.	27	
TOTAL	108	2

	Very little & little knowledge	Some Awareness	Knowledgeable & very knowledgeable
How would you rate your knowledge of microaggressions and implicit bias before the workshop?	6	14	9
How would you rate your knowledge of microaggressions and implicit bias following the workshop?	0	3	27

Equity Tools and Resources for Faculty Engagement with Dr. Julie Clemens

- In-person attendance- 6. Online attendance – unknown. Visits to online recording - unknown
- The overwhelming majority of those that completed the survey indicated having increased their awareness of tools and resources for faculty and their ongoing work with creating and maintaining equity-focused learning environments

	Yes	No
I can recognize how my own identities play a role in my classroom curriculum & instructions.	4	
I can define and recognize practices and traditions that are biased in order to stop them.	4	

I have set goals based on material that came from the workshop.	4	
I am aware of how this material can be applied to my field of instruction.	4	
TOTAL	16	0

	Very little & little awareness	Some Awareness	Knowledgeable & very aware
How would you rate your awareness of tools & resources for faculty and their ongoing work in creating and maintaining equity-focused classrooms, curriculum & research labs before the workshop?		2	1
How would you rate your awareness of tools & resources for faculty and their ongoing work in creating and maintaining equity-focused classrooms, curriculum & research labs after the workshop?			4

- In-person attendance- 6. Online attendance – unknown. Visits to online recording - unknown
- The overwhelming majority of those that completed the survey indicated having increased their awareness of tools and resources for faculty and their ongoing work with creating and maintaining equity-focused learning environments

Upcoming - Spring 2024

- **National Day of Racial Healing.** WIU joins colleges and universities across the country to engage in activities, events, or strategies that promote healing and foster engagement around the issues of racism, bias, inequity, and injustice in our society. This will be WIU’s first participation in the 8-year history of the event. (1.16.24)
- **Kinder Mondays: *Star Monday.*** The JIDE office will collaborate with the University Counseling Center to acknowledge and promote kindness on campus and encourage visits to the JIDE Office. (1.29.24)
- **Discover Western.** The JIDE office will host an information table and have a representative to distribute information and participate in a Q&A on the JIDE office, DEI resources and diversity at WIU as part of Admissions Office’s Discover Western Preview Day for students and their families. (2.19.24; 3.2.24; 4.27.24)

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/7 -- Report on Contributions



Fundraising Progress Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Pledges Made	Planned Gifts (FV)*	Total Pledges
\$ 355,229	\$ 0	\$ 355,229
Cash Gifts	Gifts-in-Kind	Total Receipts
\$ 2,140,141	\$ 51,961	\$ 2,192,102

	Overall Total	Goal	% to Goal
Fiscal Year	\$ 2,547,331	\$ 8,000,000	31.8%
Campaign	\$ 49,370,574	\$ 100,000,000	49.4%

*Discounted Present Value for the 0 planned gift pledge(s):
\$ 0

Deferred gift pledges not included in totals:

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year goals and progress
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members
 NOTES: Cash Gifts do not include pledge payments.
 Gifts-in-kind do not include service or noncharitable gifts-in-kind.
 Printed on 2023-11-15

Fundraising Progress Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

COLLEGE/UNIT	PLEDGES	GIFTS	GIFTS- IN-KIND	PLANNED GIFTS	FISCAL YEAR TOTAL
CAS	13,394	402,981	8,042	0	424,417
CBT	26,204	210,767	0	0	236,971
COEHS	8,482	339,227	0	0	347,709
COFAC	35,872	193,763	0	0	229,635
LIBRARY	109	12,025	167	0	12,301
HONORS	372	20,650	0	0	21,022
GLOBAL STUDIES	3,240	2,875	0	0	6,115
STUDENT SERVICES	15,463	46,837	0	0	62,300
QC	3,645	14,536	0	0	18,181
WQPT	3,472	139,838	12,310	0	155,620
ATHLETICS	25,072	242,868	30,508	0	298,447
ALUMNI	4,109	8,984	179	0	13,272
BGS	1,750	4,175	0	0	5,925
TRI-STATES RADIO	138,071	60,225	0	0	198,296
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	42,429	38,791	0	0	81,219
OTHER	33,544	401,599	755	0	435,898
UNIVERSITY TOTALS:	355,229	2,140,141	51,961	0	2,547,331

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year progress by unit

AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members

NOTES: Gifts do not include pledge payments.

Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.

Gifts-in-kind do not include service or noncharitable gifts-in-kind.

Printed on 2023-11-15

Significant Donors Report Gifts of \$5,000 or more for Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Name	Pledges & Payments	Cash Gifts	Planned Gifts	Gifts-in-Kind	Soft Credit	Total
Tim & Sue Adams	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Cory Clem - APEX Financial Associates	0	200	0	8,000	0	8,200
Anonymous	0	5,766	0	0	7,294	13,060
Anonymous	5,000	120	0	0	0	5,120
Jobu Babin	5,680	0	0	0	0	5,680
Robert & Judy Baker	5,000	0	0	0	2,000	7,000
Larry Balsamo & Charlene Callison	0	9,100	0	0	0	9,100
BASF Corporation	0	13,000	0	0	0	13,000
Peggy Beckman	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Scott Bennett	0	0	104,166	0	0	104,166
Marty Brown	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
Byron Carlson	5,000	0	0	0	0	5,000
CoBank	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Ernie & Pamela Codilis	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000
Carolyn Colvin	0	0	100,010	0	0	100,010
Compeer Financial	0	17,500	0	0	0	17,500
Corteva Agriscience	0	19,000	0	0	0	19,000
Jamie & Mick Cumbie	20,000	0	0	300	0	20,300
Susan & Nick Di Grino	0	12,500	0	0	0	12,500
Patt Dodds	0	11,350	0	0	0	11,350
Doris & Victor Day Foundation	0	12,500	0	0	0	12,500
Dot Foods, Inc.	0	6,000	0	0	0	6,000
Jerry & Ann Ernst	15,000	0	0	0	0	15,000
Marshall Ervin	0	1,200	0	0	98,430	99,630
Curt & Christine Farr	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Kathy & Randy Germeraad	0	0	0	0	250,000	250,000
Chuck Gilbert & Karen Ihrig-Gilbert	11,280	120	0	0	0	11,400
George Grice	6,120	28,000	0	0	0	34,120
GROWMARK Foundation	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Robert Harris	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Emily Hess	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000
Stephen Hofer	26,000	0	0	0	0	26,000
Illinois Farm Bureau	0	16,000	0	0	0	16,000
John Deere World Headquarters	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
John F. Blauvelt Estate	0	38,000	0	0	0	38,000
Judith K Johnson Trust	0	0	10,000	0	0	10,000

Name	Pledges & Payments	Cash Gifts	Planned Gifts	Gifts-in-Kind	Soft Credit	Total
Lionel Kinney	0	10,000	0	0	0	10,000
Sue Martinelli	6,284	5,250	0	0	0	11,534
Jim & Claudia Mc Cain	0	6,745	0	0	0	6,745
Idol & Jill Mitchell	0	0	0	7,646	0	7,646
Moline Regional Community Foundation	0	6,000	0	0	0	6,000
Tom Nardi	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
Joyce & Jim Nielsen	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
Sheila Nollen	12,000	0	0	0	0	12,000
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
Paul & Alene Reuschel	5,000	1,000	0	0	0	6,000
Ruth Richert	0	40,100	0	0	0	40,100
Charles Rudiger	0	13,000	0	0	0	13,000
Sarah Knight Memorial	0	12,000	0	0	0	12,000
Brian & Linda Savage	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Mona Sawyer	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Keith Schrodtt	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
Marion & Jack Schulte	0	0	0	0	7,500	7,500
Arlie Seymour	0	0	274,937	0	0	274,937
Sodexo America, LLC	0	40,000	0	0	0	40,000
Taylor & Lorraine Steinberg	4,174	1,000	0	0	0	5,174
google.org	0	55,565	0	0	0	55,565
United Way Quad Cities	0	0	0	12,000	0	12,000
Dona & Norman Walzer	0	14,000	0	0	0	14,000
Phil Weiss	540	5,000	0	0	0	5,540
Anita & Dennis Werling	0	7,500	0	0	0	7,500
Wesley United Methodist Church's Fellheimer Trust	0	11,400	0	0	0	11,400
West Central FS, Inc.	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Margaret Wong	0	0	0	0	32,000	32,000

PURPOSE: List of significant donors with gifts or pledges \$5,000 or greater for current fiscal year.

AUDIENCE: External (Board) and internal use for administrators and development officers.

NOTES: "Pledges & Payments" includes any new pledges for current or future fiscal years plus the amount paid (or expected to be paid) this year on prior year pledges. Total includes memberships for next fiscal year (e.g. Leatherneck Club)

Printed on 2023-11-15

Annual Fund Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

COLLEGE/UNIT	# OF PLEDGES	TOTAL PLEDGE AMT	AVERAGE PLEDGE AMT	PLEDGES PAID	CASH	*TOTAL RECEIVED
CAS	19	4,140	218	2,813	20,390	23,203
CBT	119	17,080	144	4,328	17,875	22,203
COEHS	30	3,525	118	1,735	8,010	9,745
COFAC	30	7,441	248	2,324	21,425	23,749
ALUMNI	35	3,760	107	1,780	3,044	4,824
GLOBAL STUDIES	32	1,920	60	325	1,275	1,600
LIBRARY	1	109	109	36	11,775	11,811
HONORS	0	0	0	0	150	150
QC	2	2,120	1,060	1,050	406	1,456
ATHLETICS	17	3,433	202	6,816	80,164	86,980
STUDENT SERVICES	33	4,334	131	1,480	8,027	9,507
BGS	29	1,750	60	430	1,725	2,155
TRI-STATES RADIO	459	138,071	301	44,436	60,225	104,662
WQPT	21	3,472	165	965	129,838	130,803
PFA	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	95	15,863	167	7,137	27,116	34,252
OTHER	20	18,284	914	17,259	20,850	38,109
Total	942	225,302	239	92,914	412,296	505,209

****Total Annual Fund: \$637,598**

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year Annual Fund totals by Unit; includes Phonathon and President's Scholarship totals.
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members.
 NOTES:
 *Total Received equals Income (Pledges Paid + Cash).
 **Total Annual Fund equals sum of Pledges and Cash.
 Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.
 Printed on 2023-11-15

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/8 -- Quad Cities Campus Priorities, Strategies, and Highlights

Guided by the Western Illinois University – Quad Cities Strategic Initiatives Plan, the following report illustrates the ways that Western’s strategic geographic location and community engagement positions the University to develop impactful partnerships while also raising the profile of WIU programs and people in the region, the State, and beyond.

Museum Studies Hosts the Iowa Museum Association

The Museum Studies graduate program, though based in Illinois, extended its impact beyond the state borders by hosting the Iowa Museum Association 2023 Annual Conference, *The Power of Place* on the Quad Cities campus. One hundred fifty museum professionals attended, including 30 WIU Museum Studies graduate students, faculty, and program alumni. WIU Museum Studies Program Alumna Clare Tobin, Assistant Director of the German American Heritage Museum, received the Iowa Museum Association Rising Star Award during the Iowa Museum Association Annual Conference.

Career Connections and Employer Engagement

WIU Center for Career Development and Employer Engagement held the Fall Career Fair, with a 10% increase in the number of employers recruiting at WIU, and a 48% increase in the number of students who attended both academic-focused and all-majors fairs. For all-major events, the Career Center team increased its focus on educating employers about the international student population and brought in new employers to meet the needs of all programs.

Human Resource Management Program and the College of Business and Technology celebrated 10 years of Human Resource Management in the Quad Cities. Dr. Susan Stewart, Dr. Bruce Western, and others engaged and activated alumni and local HR networks for the event in collaboration with Alumni Relations. Audrey Adamson delivered a SHRM credit-approved workshop about Internship Best Practices to 30 human resources professionals.

Partnership for Innovation and Economic Development

WIU was featured in the Quad Cities news and on the radar of regional, state, and community leaders thanks to the leadership, initiative, collaboration, and expertise of Dr. Chris Merrett, Dr. Roger Viadero, and Dr. Honey Zimmerman. The Quad Cities campus hosted a ribbon cutting event to help announce a WIU/Corn Belt Ports (CBP) agreement that establishes an on-campus

office for CBP and program collaboration. CBP is a federally recognized organization that brings river commerce to the Quad Cities area and enhances the supply chain while also promoting healthy river habitat and water quality. The new partnership demonstrates Western's commitment to regional commerce and environmental sustainability, and even more powerful is the opportunity that this proximity brings to WIU for research, grants, and other support on regional and federal level.

State Representatives Halpin and Johnson, Rock Island and Davenport Mayors Thoms and Matson, Chamber of Commerce CEO LaDrina Wilson, and a number of staffers from both IL and IA state offices were in attendance (including Congressman Eric Sorensen). In total around 70 individuals including local media were present for the event. This level of coverage demonstrates to legislators that WIU is a valuable partner while also raising awareness about WIU programs and people. The event was planned by Audrey Adamson in collaboration with the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, Lexi Yoggerst and Sarah Ritter were there to document the story, and Zach Messersmith was present to interact with our government leaders.

This collaboration between WIU, CBP and all involved partners is possible because Western has a campus on the Mississippi River, and because Dr. Merrett, Dr. Viadero, and Dr. Zimmerman are entrenched in the economic development and environmental sustainability/river ecosystem scene, locally, regionally, and nationally. Programs in Community and Economic Development (M.S.), Environmental Science (Ph.D.), and Supply Chain Management serve as a critical asset and demonstrate Western's commitment and value to the region with legislators and industry partners.

Early Experiences through Educational Outreach

Western Illinois University's Public Media Service WQPT PBS welcomed over 3,000 people to the Quad Cities campus for a day of educational fun. Imagination Station volunteers included WIU staff members and students from a variety of majors and student organizations, such as Society of Educators/School of Education, Counseling Education, Engineering/Women in Engineering, SGA/Student Services, and Museum Studies.

Comments from participants illustrate the positive impression and experience young children and their families had while on campus:

- “The characters were the highlight for my son. The staff was super friendly and helpful too!”
- “The generosity of the whole event just blew my mind.”
- “This event was absolutely amazing and we had a magical and educational experience. Thank you for bringing this to our community.”

The Educational Outreach Department of WQPT PBS also continues its regular weekly events in the community, including First Book classroom visits, Adult ESL and GED prep classes, and presentations to Spring Forward and Stepping Stones afterschool programs.

In collaboration with Academic Affairs and Admissions, WIU engages with high schools throughout the Quad Cities region with program Open Houses, Western Wednesday events, and expanded partnership for early admission/dual enrollment with select high schools interested in

four-year pathways in high demand fields. In recognition of Western's partnership for special education, grow your own initiatives, and more, WIU was recognized as a "Premier Partner" of the Moline-Coal Valley School District.

Esports Arena – Local Venue for National Competition

The availability of the Quad Cities campus Esports Arena, combined with a tradition of team success at the national level, has positioned WIU Quad Cities Esports as an effective contributor to student recruitment, engagement, and retention. Quad Cities Student Services has expanded physical space to both the Quad Cities Complex and Riverfront Hall location, with enhanced gaming and technology capability. Esports celebrated a sharp new logo in collaboration with University Communication that evokes a sense of WIU pride and identity while also tying into gaming culture and design.

Telling the Story, Shaping the Narrative

Western Illinois University benefits from promotion and storytelling of activities and initiatives. The University Communication team promotes all Quad Cities campus events, partnerships, successes, and individual accomplishments through hundreds of published feature stories and press releases, promotion of Western's awards and recognitions, social media engagement, and marketing strategies that engage prospective students and the community. In addition, members of the team on both campuses regularly participate in outreach focused events held at the Quad Cities Campus and in the community. The Quad Cities community and media outlets throughout the region are watching and listening, and because of successful efforts to infuse WIU into local awareness, are increasingly embracing WIU and wanting to be part of telling the Western Illinois University story.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Report No. 23.12/9 -- University Marketing and Communications



Goals

- 1 Provide value to WIU's audiences
- 2 Differentiate from the competition
- 3 Highlight Western's unique, high-demand programs
- 4 Nurture leads through the Admissions funnel to help drive enrollment
- 5 Retarget WIU's audience to increase the frequency of visibility
- 6 Generate positive feelings about Western through continued brand awareness efforts
- 7 Examine trends and analytics to make data-driven decisions



Overview

Digital

- Paid digital advertising (Carnegie)
- Lead generators
- Strategic organic social media

Traditional

- Brand awareness via billboards & banners; broadcast television; radio; community relations; print
- Layering some traditional media with digital efforts with specific CTAs for campaigns aligning with Enrollment goals

Community Engagement & Outreach

- Experiential - experiencing the WIU brand
- Strategic sponsorships



According to RNL*, the average online program marketing budget (not including any overhead costs) is in excess of one million dollars. Public institutions reported an average of \$1.04 million. (WIU's total overall marketing budget is less than \$1 million)

*Buffalo Noel Levitz



Updated Commercial



Partnering with UTV, University Marketing launched the updated commercial this fall. The video has received 233,414 views on YouTube since going live on August 29, 2023, and is running on various local TV broadcasts.

Objectives

- 1 Generate new leads
- 2 Increase exposure and interest beyond the organic
- 3 Drive traffic to WIU's website
- 4 Encourage actions (visit, apply etc.)
- 5 Strengthen brand awareness
- 6 Track conversions



Digital Plan

- IP Targeting
- Mobile Location Targeting
- Mobile Footprint Targeting
- Display
- PPC - Google Ad
- SEO
- YouTube Ad
- Analytics
- Snapchat Ads
- Carnegie Clarity™
- TikTok Ads
- Data Tagging (Dart Tagging)
- Facebook/Instagram/Stories Ads
- Zapier/Slate Import Automation Set Up



Audience Campaigns

- Prospect
- Transfer
- Inquiry
- Yield

Digital Highlights

July 2023-November 2023

8+ Million
Impressions

43,483
Clicks

2,393
Conversions

With the campaigns so far, inquiries increased over 60% YoY primarily due to Transfer Facebook/Instagram which drove 50 inquiries this year compared to 11 last year, and UG PPC which drove 299 inquiries this year compared to 261 last year which can be attributed to increased investments and continued optimizations to the audience, keywords, etc.



Strategic Targeting

Freshman Targeting

42 Counties in IL, IA, and MO
37 high schools in IL and IA

Transfer Targeting

29 Counties in IL, IA, and MO
27 Community Colleges in IL and IA

University Marketing works with Undergraduate Admissions to determine top-feeder schools and counties for the geographic targeting strategy.



Clarity Highlights

Clarity campaigns have driven a total of **595 conversions** from July 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023

- **690** have created an application account
- **326** application submissions
- **208** visit or event registrations
- **165** Submitted an RFI form
- **55** Calendly admission counselor button clicks
- **6** Give/Alumni button clicks

Trail blaze into the future with us

You have the chance to help enhance educational opportunities for all Leathernecks and be a part of For the W, the \$100 million-plus fundraising campaign!

[Learn More](#)

Connect With WIU

Curious about what life is like for the Leathernecks? Whether you're a first-year freshman or a prospective transfer student, we're ready to show you around!

[Choose a Visit Date](#)

Traditional Marketing

- 3 Area Macomb Billboards
- 3 QC Billboard near campus
- 1 Springfield Billboard
- QC Airport Ad
- WGEM
- WCIU-TV
- WMBD/WYZZ
- Admission Publications
- WYZZ
- Tri-State Public Radio
- The Joe Roderick Show
- Community News Brief
- QC Times
- WQAD



Billboard Examples



Print Ads

**Colonel Rock IV's
Gingerbread Cookies For Humans**

Happy Holidays!

INGREDIENTS

1 cup (2 sticks) of softened butter
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup molasses
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup white vinegar
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup lime juice
1/2 cup apple juice
1/2 cup cranberry juice
1/2 cup raspberry juice
1/2 cup blueberry juice
1/2 cup strawberry juice
1/2 cup cherry juice
1/2 cup peach juice
1/2 cup apricot juice
1/2 cup plum juice
1/2 cup nectarine juice
1/2 cup kiwi fruit juice
1/2 cup guava juice
1/2 cup passion fruit juice
1/2 cup dragon fruit juice
1/2 cup pomegranate juice
1/2 cup mulberry juice
1/2 cup blackberry juice
1/2 cup raspberry juice
1/2 cup blueberry juice
1/2 cup strawberry juice
1/2 cup cherry juice
1/2 cup peach juice
1/2 cup apricot juice
1/2 cup plum juice
1/2 cup nectarine juice
1/2 cup kiwi fruit juice
1/2 cup guava juice
1/2 cup passion fruit juice
1/2 cup dragon fruit juice
1/2 cup pomegranate juice
1/2 cup mulberry juice
1/2 cup blackberry juice

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Roll out dough on a parchment-lined surface. Cut into desired shapes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Dip in desired glaze. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

2. Add the flour to the wet ingredients, and mix until the dough is uniform. Then, add the sugar and molasses. Mix until the dough is uniform. Then, add the oil and vinegar. Mix until the dough is uniform. Then, add the water and juice. Mix until the dough is uniform. Then, add the remaining ingredients. Mix until the dough is uniform. Then, roll out the dough on a parchment-lined surface. Cut into desired shapes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Dip in desired glaze. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

3. Roll out the dough on a parchment-lined surface. Cut into desired shapes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Dip in desired glaze. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

4. Roll out the dough on a parchment-lined surface. Cut into desired shapes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Dip in desired glaze. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

5. Roll out the dough on a parchment-lined surface. Cut into desired shapes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Dip in desired glaze. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

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10. Roll out the dough on a parchment-lined surface. Cut into desired shapes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Allow to cool completely. Dip in desired glaze. Store in an airtight container. Enjoy!

Western Illinois University | wiu.edu

Sing? Dance? Play? Draw?
Use your talents to help pay for college.

**AT WIU, LEATHERNECKS
STAND OUT**

Your education shouldn't blend in!
There are Talent Grants available for all majors.

Western Illinois University
Macomb • Quad Cities • Online

LEARN MORE

Come see us at
Heritage Days 2023
Thursday-Sunday
June 22-25

-Inflatables
-Give aways
-Time with Ray

Western Illinois University

Academic Marketing

- Clarity Interactions Program Specific (5 programs)
- Email Communications
- Web page redesign
- Flat Sheet Redesign
- Select in-house digital campaigns
- Academic program commercials and other video content
- Assistance if requested by departments to help with in-house marketing campaigns

Master your class
100% ONLINE
M.S. Mathematics

Western Illinois University
Join our premier agriculture education program that offers the highest teacher placement rate among agriculture institutions in Illinois.

BEEF UP AND TEACH
Agriculture Education

Western Illinois
The Ag program has one...

Learn more

Reach Your Goals at WIU
An ACCE accredited business education program that gives you the practical skills and professional network you need to launch a successful career. That's your opportunity.

Apply Now



Brand Management

OVERVIEW

Western Illinois University's brand showcases our history and brings new initiatives to light that move us forward. Brand guidelines help all ambassadors—anyone representing WIU—apply the brand. University Marketing enforces these standards help build and maintain consistent visual and verbal communication.

ONGOING

Brand 360 Management with CLC

Management of Creatives for external communications

Strengthen brand guidelines to be more user friendly

Create a brand suite on the website

Policy Updates



Communication



PR Highlights

January 2023-November 2023

615+
Press
Releases

56
Per Month
Avg.

14+
Per Week Avg.

April and Oct. had the highest amount with more than 90 press releases produced in each of those months.



We ♥ WIU



We love to share the news about how great it is to be a Leatherneck. Here are some key highlights we have shared about WIU this last year.

If you have a story worth sharing email u-communications@wiu.edu

Awards and Recognitions:

- **Best for Vets Award:** WIU received recognition for its support of veterans.
- **NOYCE Grants:** Secured grants to further education in STEM fields.
- **Distinguished Alumni:** Multiple alumni stories and awards celebrated.
- **Military Friendly School:** For the 14th consecutive year.
- **Most Affordable IL State Institution for 2023:** Acknowledged for its affordability.
- **Higher Education** recognition through STEM.
- **WIU Ranked on "America's Best College"** by the Wall Street Journal
- **U.S. News Recognizes WIU** as Best in Multiple Categories

Community Engagement:

- **MCC Events:** Celebrating various cultural heritage months.
- **Project Awards:** Recognized for impactful projects.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration with organizations like John Deere.
- **Expansion of Professor Research:** Contributions to academic research.



We ♥ WIU

Academic Excellence:

- **Online Master's Programs:** WIU ranked as the best in four programs.
- **Provost Awards:** Recognizing excellence in academia.
- **ABET Recertification:** Multiple recertifications for engineering programs.
- **SHRM Recertification:** For HRM programs.
- **Career Fairs:** Numerous opportunities across various programs.
- **Institutional Agreements:** Collaborations with other institutions.
- **Large History Conference:** Held on campus, fostering academic exchange.
- **School of Nursing Simulation:** Advancements in nursing education.
- **Microaggression Webinars:** Initiatives to promote diversity and inclusion.

Campus and Student Life:

- **Leathernecks Move to Ohio Valley Conf:** Athletic news.
- **International Drum Corps:** Training and performances at WIU.
- **Anti-Racism Town Halls:** Initiatives to promote inclusivity.
- **Ag Grant for Livestock Center:** Enhancing agricultural education.
- **Seymour Center Gift Unveiling:** Celebrating donations.
- **Corn Belts Ports Ribbon Cutting:** A partnership event.
- **Homecoming and Mega Reunion:** Campus-wide celebrations.
- **Rocky Chatbox Website Initiative:** Digital communication enhancement.
- **Rocky's Play Space:** Announced Early Learning Center.
- **UCC Expansion:** Expanding services for students.

Outreach and Admissions:

- **Discover Western:** Showcasing the institution.
- **Welcome Wednesdays:** Engaging with prospective students.
- **HS Campus Visits:** Widening the reach to high school students.
- **Common App:** Enhancing the application process.



Have more questions?

Email: Marketing@wiu.edu

W | Western Illinois University

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Resolution No. 23.12/1 -- Disposition of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Audio Recordings

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University must comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Open Meetings Act requires public bodies periodically to review their Closed Session written minutes on at least a semiannual basis to determine what parts of the minutes should be made available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the written minutes of the Closed Sessions held on September 27, 2018, October 3, 2019, December 12, 2019, December 13, 2019, April 30, 2020, June 11, 2020, November 5, 2020, December 17, 2020, March 25, 2021, June 10, 2021, September 9, 2021, December 1, 2021, March 10, 2022, June 9, 2022, November 30, 2022, March 23, 2023, June 7, 2023, and October 12, 2023, to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to all or part of the minutes; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Open Meetings Act permits the Board of Trustees to approve the destruction of the verbatim audio recording no less than 18 months after the completion of the Closed Session; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.06(c) of the Open Meetings Act, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the verbatim audio recordings of the Closed Sessions held on March 10, 2022, June 9, 2022, November 30, 2022, March 23, 2023, June 7, 2023, and October 12, 2023, to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists and whether to destroy the verbatim recording;

THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

1. The Board of Trustees has determined that the need for confidentiality of the written minutes dated September 27, 2018, October 3, 2019, December 12, 2019, December 13, 2019, April 30, 2020, June 11, 2020, November 5, 2020, December 17, 2020, March 25, 2021, June 10, 2021, September 9, 2021, December 1, 2021, March 10, 2022, June 9, 2022, November 30, 2022, March 23, 2023, June 7, 2023, and October 12, 2023, still exists and the written minutes shall be retained as confidential pending further review in the future to determine their eligibility for release.
2. The Board of Trustees has determined that the need for confidentiality of the verbatim audio recordings of the Closed Sessions held on June 9, 2022, November 30, 2022, March 23, 2023, June 7, 2023, and October 12, 2023, still exists and the recordings shall be retained as confidential pending further review in the future to determine their eligibility for release.
3. The verbatim audio recording of the Closed Session held on March 10, 2022, is approved for destruction.
4. The Board of Trustees will on at least a semiannual basis review the closed session written minutes and verbatim audio recordings.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Resolution No. 23.12/2 -- Update to Western Illinois University Benchmarking Institutions

Resolution:

WHEREAS the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees initiated benchmarking for non-salary comparisons with the implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the establishment of University performance indicators; and

WHEREAS the last update of Western Illinois University's peer groups occurred in 2015 (see Table 1, next page); and

WHEREAS updated peer groups will provide an updated benchmark to help guide and support Western Illinois University in a wide variety of ways, including planning, program evaluation, and improvement in serving students with more contemporary peer groups best suited to the current context of the University; and

WHEREAS the University will continue benchmarking against Illinois public universities where appropriate, and follow contractual agreements to work with the University Professionals of Illinois in setting peer groups for salary comparisons;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University approves the proposed peer institutions (see Table 2, next page); and be it further resolved that the Board commends the campus community for working collaboratively to advance benchmarking of the goals and priorities set forth in *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

Table 1
Current Western Illinois University Peer Institutions for Non-Salary Comparisons
(Approved by WIU Board of Trustees June 12, 2015)

Macomb Campus

Appalachian State University
 Central Washington University
 Eastern Illinois University
 Grand Valley State University
 James Madison University
 Montclair State University
 Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
 Truman State University
 University of Central Missouri
 University of Nebraska at Kearney
 University of Northern Iowa
 University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse
 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
 William Paterson University

Quad Cities Campus

Auburn University-Montgomery
 Augustana College
 Indiana University-East
 Indiana University-Kokomo
 Louisiana State University-Shreveport
 Montana Technological University
 Pennsylvania State University-Harrisburg
 Saint Ambrose University
 University of Illinois-Springfield
 University of Texas-Permian Basin

Table 2
Proposed Western Illinois University Peer Institution for Non-Salary Comparisons

Jacksonville State University
 Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
 Morehead State University
 Murray State University
 Northwestern State University of Louisiana
 Saginaw Valley State University
 Salem State University
 Southern Connecticut State University
 Southern Utah University
 SUNY Brockport
 SUNY College at Oswego
 Texas A & M International University
 University of Southern Indiana
 University of Wisconsin-Stout
 William Paterson University of New Jersey

Background

The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees initiated benchmarking for non-salary comparisons* for the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses with the implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the establishment of University performance indicators. These peer groups are used in benchmarking academic program review, accreditation, budget and resource allocation, student outcomes (graduation, job placement, etc.), tuition and fee comparison, facility analyses, student enrollment, retention, graduation, and other strategic plan measures.

Review committee membership included representatives from three Faculty Senate councils; Institutional Research and Planning (IRP); the Office of Assessment, Accreditation, and Strategic Planning (AASP); and Enrollment Management.

The committee was charged with the task of identifying a working list of 12–17 peer institutions to update the current list. To be identified as a candidate for the proposed peer group, an institution was required to (1) be a Title IV participating institution; (2) operate in the United States only; (3) have full-time, first-time undergraduates; (4) not offer only academic programs via distance learning; (5) be a degree-granting institution (primarily baccalaureate or above); (6) be a public institution (four-year or above); (7) have a Carnegie classification of Masters Colleges and Universities; and (8) have a student body between 5,000 and 11,000 students.

The committee began with a list of 31 institutions identified by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) as being similar to WIU based on Carnegie classifications of public institutions of similar size. The committee narrowed this list to the 15 proposed peer institutions (see Table 2, previous page) based on the following criteria: (1) first-time, full-time new freshmen retention; (2) six-year graduation rate; (3) number of degrees awarded by level (undergraduate/graduate); (4) degree of urbanization; and (5) amount of distance education by student level (specifically, whether students are taking one course, multiple courses, exclusively online, or no online courses).

Institutions with outliers (defined to be top or bottom 10%) in more than two categories were removed from consideration. Institutions with only one or two outliers were not removed from consideration because these factors helped to provide a level of differentiation in the institutions being considered, while still maintaining similarity on the majority of relevant criteria.

Given that WIU is one university with two campuses, it was deemed inappropriate to continue with a separate list for each campus. Additionally, the committee did not identify a list of aspirational institutions, as they determined that Western Illinois University is able to have aspirational goals within the proposed peer groups. For example, WIU's usual graduation rate is 68%–69%, and the range for the institutions in the top 25% of the proposed peer institutions is 77%–81%. There is room within this metric to make progress toward reaching the top 25% of WIU's peer institutions.

* Salary comparisons are not included because those are set via contractual agreement between UPI and the University.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Resolution No. 23.12/3 -- Amended Resolution No. 23.10/9 -
International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL- CIO Local Union No.
399 – Landscape Maintenance 2023-2026 Bargaining Agreement

Resolution:

WHEREAS Western Illinois University Board of Trustees must approve collective bargaining agreements prior to implementation; and,

WHEREAS an agreement was reached on August 8, 2023, and was ratified on August 31, 2023, by the IUOE Local 399 – Landscape Maintenance

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the agreement as presented.

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 399 – Landscape Maintenance

An agreement was reached on August 8, 2023, and was ratified on August 31, 2023, for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, with the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 399 – Landscape Maintenance representing approximately 10 employees.

Contract Language

The contract contains all the provisions required by law. In addition, it contains specific articles reflecting the unique circumstances of Western Illinois University. The parties agreed to update holiday pay, minimum number of holidays recognized by the University, overtime compensatory maximum, uprate pay for operating specified equipment, wages and effective date of agreement and update pronoun language.

Wage Settlement

The parties agreed to a three percent (3%) base wage increase for Fiscal Year 2024 retroactive to July 1, 2023. The parties agreed to a three percent (2%) base wage increase for Fiscal Year 2025 and two percent (2%) base wage increase for Fiscal Year 2026. The parties also agreed to a wage re-opener based on the salary survey.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Resolution No. 23.12/4 -- Resolution Authorizing the Financing of Technology Improvements

Resolution:

WHEREAS it is hereby determined to be desirable that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University (the “*Board*”) authorize the execution and delivery of an Installment Purchase Contract, and the issuance of Taxable Certificates of Participation (Technology Projects) Series 2023 (the “*Series 2023 Certificates*”) in connection therewith, in order to provide funds to acquire an enterprise resource planning system to support the operating systems of the University including software, hardware and infrastructure upgrades, staff training, implementation and consulting (the “*Improvements*”).

WHEREAS the Board has authority pursuant to the Western Illinois University Law, 110 ILCS 690/35-1 *et seq.* to sell certificates of participation and enter into related financing agreements in connection with the financing of capital improvements; and

WHEREAS the Board hereby determines that it is desirable to grant approval for the acquisition, development and implementation of the Improvements and to finance the Improvements and related costs through the issuance of certificates of participation;

THEREFORE Be It Resolved by the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, that:

1. The Board hereby authorizes the execution and delivery of an Installment Purchase Contract and the issuance of the Series 2023 Certificates in connection therewith, in order to provide funds to finance the Improvements and pay the costs of issuing the Series 2023 Certificates.

2. Pursuant to an Engagement Letter, the firm of Chapman and Cutler LLP, Chicago, Illinois, be and is hereby retained as Special Counsel to the Board for all legal matters incidental to the authorization and issuance of the Series 2023 Certificates.

3. Pursuant to the University’s existing contract, the firm of Blue Rose Capital Advisors LLC, Chicago, Illinois, be and is hereby retained as Financial Advisor in connection with the issuance of the Series 2023 Certificates.

4. U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, Chicago, Illinois, be and is hereby authorized to serve as Trustee for the Series 2023 Certificates.

5. The Treasurer of the Board or his or her designee (the “*Board Treasurer*”) is hereby authorized to enter into a Continuing Covenants Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (the “*Purchaser*”), and a Certificate Purchase Agreement with the Purchaser and the Trustee for the sale of the Series 2023 Certificates in a private placement.

6. The Board approves the forms of the Installment Purchase Contract, the Indenture of Trust, the Acquisition Agreement, the Continuing Covenants Agreement and the Certificate Purchase Agreement in substantially the forms that were approved in connection with the issuance of the Certificates of Participation (Capital Improvement Project), Series 2021, or with such changes as may be approved by the officer of the Board executing the same, his or her execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board’s approval of all changes from the forms thereof presented to this meeting.

7. The Board authorizes the issuance of Series 2023 Certificates, in order to provide funds to finance, or reimburse the Board for costs associated with, the Improvements, and pay the costs of issuing the Series 2023 Certificates. The Series 2023 Certificates shall be in an aggregate original principal amount not to exceed \$5,800,000 with a final maturity no later than 10 years from the date of issuance of the Series 2023 Certificates. The maximum interest rate on the Series 2023 Certificates will not exceed 9.00%. The final terms of the Series 2023 Certificates shall be approved by the Board Treasurer within the parameters set forth in Resolution and said approval shall be evidenced by the Board Treasurer’s execution of the Certificate Purchase Agreement and the Continuing Covenants Agreement.

8. The members, officers, agents and employees of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to do all such acts and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this resolution and with the actions of the members, officers, agents, and employees of the Board which are in conformity with the intent and purposes of this resolution, whether heretofore or hereafter taken or done, which actions shall be and are ratified, confirmed and approved.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023

Resolution No. 23.12/5 -- Amendment to the Regulations of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University Section II Subsection (B)(7) Distinguished Service Professorship

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the regulations of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University allow the Board to act as follows when amending the regulations pursuant to Section 1 Board Procedures, Subsection A Board of Trustees: Authority, Paragraph (2)(b) states as follows:

Board action on the proposal shall not be taken earlier than the next regular meeting following first reading. During the interim between first reading and Board action, the President shall publicly post to the University community for comment the proposed revisions. Up to ten days prior to the Board meeting at which action is to be taken, members of the faculty, staff, and student body may submit their views and comments in writing to the President for distribution to the Board together with the President's recommendation for action on the proposal.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees had its first reading of this Resolution on October 13, 2023, and its second reading with final approval at the December 5, 2023, meeting.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University make the following changes to Section II Subsection (B)(7) as follows (words struck through to be deleted):

~~Distinguished Service Professorship~~

- ~~a. From time to time, the Board may wish to continue to benefit from the abilities and experience of a resigning President. In such cases, the Board may, at its discretion, appoint that individual as a Distinguished Service Professor. The terms, conditions, and duration of such appointment shall be set by the Board. The salary shall be~~

comparable to the salary of senior faculty members within the University. Appointment to a Distinguished Service Professorship may, at the discretion of the Board, include a sabbatical leave provided the program of study or research to be undertaken by the appointee on such leave is first reviewed by the Board and judged to be in the interest of the University. If the appointment is made within a specific academic department, there shall be discussions with appropriate institutional and departmental representatives.

- b. Persons appointed with the title "Distinguished Service Professor" to undertake teaching and/or research responsibilities shall be included in the faculty collective bargaining unit. Persons appointed to undertake other assignments without the title of "Distinguished Service Professor" shall not be included in the faculty bargaining unit.