

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
Mike Houston, Chairperson Carolyn Ehlert Fuller
Chris Bronson Bill Griffin
Bill Epperly Steve Nelson

From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities, Planning and Technology

Date: November 4, 2010

Re: November 2010 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides data from Military Times EDGE magazine and the Washington Monthly to show that the University continues to successfully pursue the vision of *Higher Values in Higher Education* to be the leader in educational quality, opportunity, and affordability among its peers.

Military Times EDGE magazine

Western Illinois University was selected as a "Best for Vets College" by *Military Times EDGE* magazine. Western ranked 25th, is one of only two Illinois public institutions in the top 25, and is one of only 101 national colleges and universities to receive recognition. Institutions were compared in four categories, with each category rated on a five-point scale. Definitions used by Military Times appear below.

- **Financial Assistance:** Scholarships, discounts and waivers specifically for veterans and their dependents, including the Yellow Ribbon program and relaxed residency restrictions for in-state tuition; policies to protect veterans in case of late-arriving benefits.
- **Academic Flexibility:** Participation in the Service members' Opportunity Colleges consortium and Degree Network Systems and acceptance of military learning and subject tests, like the College Level Examination Program, for academic credit. Also school policies on military-related withdrawals.
- **Campus Culture:** Percentage of vets in the student body and faculty, ROTC programs, Veterans Day observance, local student veteran organizations and training for faculty and staff in veterans issues.
- **Support Services:** Number and kind of staff designated to work with veterans, including the number of students receiving work-study allowances from the Veterans Affairs Department. Also: efforts to reach out to veterans, acclimate them to campus and create a veterans' community, including mentorship programs, special orientation sessions, service projects and academic support."

Joining Western in the rankings were two Illinois public universities and two of the University's benchmark institutions. For additional information on this ranking, please visit www.militarytimesedge.com/projects/best-for-vets-colleges-2010/

	Overall <u>Ranking</u>	Category Rankings			
		<u>Financial Assistance</u>	<u>Academic Flexibility</u>	<u>Campus Culture</u>	<u>Support Services</u>
Southern Illinois-Carbondale	2	5.0	4.5	4.0	4.0
Western Illinois	25	3.0	4.5	3.5	4.0
Northern Illinois	49	3.0	3.5	3.5	4.5
California State-Chico	66	3.5	3.5	3.0	4.5
Montclair State	68	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.5

Washington Monthly

The 2010 *Washington Monthly College Rankings* ranked Western Illinois University 131st out of 551 national masters granting institutions for advancing social mobility, research and service. This places Western in the top 24 percent of all institutions selected for this honor. Definitions used by Washington Monthly appear below, and all three categories received equal weighting in the combined ranking system.

Social Mobility is a combined ranking based on the percentage of students receiving Pell Grants and the difference between the University's predicted and actual graduation rates, based on incoming SAT equivalent scores and Pell Grant percentages.

Research is a combined ranking based on total research expenditures and the number of bachelor's degree recipients who go on to receive Ph.D.s, relative to institutional size.

Service is a combined ranking based on three subsets: (1) the number of alumni who go on to serve in the Peace Corps, percentage of students who serve in ROTC, and the percentage of funds from federal work-study that is applied to community service, and (2) a combined measure of the number of students participating in community service and the total number of service hours performed; and (3) a measure on the number of staff supporting community service, the number of courses that incorporate community service, and institutional scholarships supporting community service.

The University ranked highest in the percentage of students who serve in ROTC (ranked 20th) and the percent of federal work-study applied to community service (ranked 33rd). All of the Macomb Campus benchmark institutions were included in the rankings. Three of the Quad Cities benchmark institutions were in the rankings. Western had the highest ranking of these peers. No other Illinois public universities besides those displayed below were included in the rankings.

WIU Compared to Macomb Campus Benchmarks										
	Social Mobility			Research			Service			
	Overall Rank	% Pell Grant Students	Diff. Between Predicted & Actual Grad. Rates Rank	Research Expend. Rank	Alumni With Bachelors Who Receive A Ph.D. Rank	Alumni In Peace Corps Rank	% ROTC Students Rank	% of Work Study Used on Service Rank	Number of Students and Hours Served Rank	Staff, Courses, Financial Support Rank
James Madison	28	9%	31	53	52	49	76	69	75	193
Northern Iowa	41	22%	185	74	132	118	198	18	31	20
SIU-Edwardsville	46	24%	399	8	265	342	104	1	195	177
NC-Wilmington	68	13%	280	16	129	56	403	93	136	151
College of Charleston	100	14%	387	54	80	21	359	25	223	219
Western Washington	114	14%	151	47	83	18	403	161	223	219
Western Illinois	131	21%	189	116	116	206	20	33	192	214
Western Kentucky	235	36%	382	26	245	280	111	252	223	219
Central Washington	246	22%	173	93	257	200	83	21	223	219
Missouri State	255	22%	418	29	146	190	158	419	223	219
Appalachian State	281	16%	266	81	161	150	98	377	223	219
California State-Chico	387	21%	199	82	307	102	403	227	223	219
Eastern Illinois	400	22%	194	148	208	303	123	389	223	219
Montclair State	433	19%	73	123	304	304	369	545	216	207
Sam Houston State	435	33%	547	90	429	264	85	14	223	219
Wisconsin-Whitewater	458	18%	258	213	341	137	180	276	223	219
WIU Compared to Quad Cities Campus Benchmarks										
Western Illinois	131	21%	189	116	116	206	20	33	192	214
Penn. State-Harrisburg	200	22%	9	219	230	381	203	90	219	219
Illinois-Springfield	269	31%	184	127	332	381	403	156	188	153
Texas A&M-International	296	53%	112	219	441	381	152	153	223	219
Arizona State University-West, Governors State University, Texas A&M-Texarkana, University of Baltimore, and University of Houston-Clear Lake were not ranked.										

For additional information on Western's benchmark institutions and/or Washington Monthly, please visit www.wiu.edu/IRP/peerinstitutions.php and www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/rankings_2010/masters_universities_rank.php, respectively.

The data in this month's *Strategic Plan Update* confirms previous reports. For example, your August 2010 *Strategic Plan Update* summarized data from national ranking systems to show how the University is progressing on achieving its *Vision Statement*. It showed that Western Illinois University has received top national recognitions from U.S. News and World Report, the Princeton Review, Forbes Magazine, G.I Jobs Magazine, the Center for Student Opportunity, the Southern Regional Educational Board, and the Educational Trust. Data from Military Times and Washington Monthly triangulate these recognitions and show the students, faculty, staff, and alumni are collectively working to make Western Illinois University the leader in educational quality, opportunity, and affordability among its peers.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the information presented in this *Strategic Plan Update*, and/or if you have additional feedback for the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

cc: President Goldfarb	COAP President Tibbitts	Associate Provost Dallinger
Provost Thomas	Faculty Council Chair Rowson	Associate Provost Hawkinson
Vice President Johnson	Faculty Senate Chair Devolder	Assistant Vice President Williams
Vice President Thompson	SGA Chairs Liles and Rosenow	Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
CSEC Pres. Herrington	Alumni Council Chair Clawson	President's Office Support Staff