

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

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

Date: August 22, 2011

Re: August 2011 Strategic Plan Update

The start of academic year 2011-2012 gives opportunity to reflect on summer 2011 *Higher Values in Higher Education* accomplishments, to look ahead to future plans and priorities, and to mark calendars for key dates and events. The information presented below is just a sampling of the many things occurring at Western Illinois University. Additional information is available from the included web links and from the *Fiscal Year 2012 Strategic Plan Update* that will be presented at your September 30, 2011, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees Meeting.

#### Summer 2011 Accomplishments

- In recognizing academic excellence, 29 faculty members were granted tenure ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9009](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9009)) and 35 faculty members were granted promotions. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9021](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9021)).
- The naming of the Council of Administrative Personnel (COAP) Employee of the Year and Civil Service Employees of the Month demonstrate service excellence.
  - Tim Rericha, research and instruction consultant in University Technology was named the 2011 COAP Employee of the Year. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9005](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9005)).
  - Marsha Grotts, a building service worker at the Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center was the May Civil Service Employee of the Month. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=8994](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8994)).
  - Chris Brown, administrative aide at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities was the June Civil Service Employee of the Month. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9023](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9023)).
  - Amy Chambers, a benefits counselor in Human Resources was the July Civil Service Employee of the Month. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9057](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9057)).
  - Kerry Lemaster, an administrative assistant in Office of the President is the August Civil Service Employee of the Month. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9074](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9074)).
- Journalist Bill Wasik's book, *And Then There's This: How Stories Live and Die in Viral Culture*, was selected as the common reading for the 2011-2012 First Year Experience (FYE) to complement University Theme year programming in Science and Technology: Discover, Innovate, Create. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=8996](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8996)).
- The Parent and Child Together (PACT) for West Central Illinois/PACT Child Care Center at WIU- Macomb received accreditation from the National Accreditation Commission for Early Care and Education Programs. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9054](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9054)).
- The Quad Cities Manufacturing Laboratory and Western Illinois University, through the College of Business and Technology, finalized a five-year contract with the Department of Defense for research and development of technologies and capabilities associated with manufacturing and processing parts using titanium, aluminum, magnesium and other lightweight metals and metal composites. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9036](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9036)).
- Western Illinois University hosted its 18<sup>th</sup> annual Dealing with Difference Institute May 17-18, 2011, in the Multicultural Center on the WIU-Macomb campus. The institute, which is designed for higher education students, faculty, and staff, along with pre-K-12 educators, featured presentations and discussions focusing on *Fear: Its Uses and Abuses*. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=8968](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8968)).

- Western Illinois University hosted the National Association of College and University Residence Halls annual conference May 27-31, 2011. More than 2,500 student leaders, advisers and guests were on the WIU-Macomb Campus for this important conference stressing living and learning environments. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=8987](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8987)).
- For the third consecutive year, Western Illinois University was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its exemplary service efforts. Western was one of four public universities—and one of 20 colleges and universities—in Illinois named to the Honor Roll. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=8978](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8978)).
- Dr. Tate Lindahl, a retired Western Illinois University administrator and Macomb resident, made a seven-figure bequest to support the Western Illinois University Performing Arts Center. Lindahl came to Western in 1967 as part of a team charged with design and implementation of computer use for administrative purposes, as well as for research and instruction. Previously, he had taught statistics at Kansas State University, been a systems engineer for IBM, chaired the math department at Black Hawk College (BHC) and established BHC's data processing curriculum. During his 23 years in academic computing at WIU, he authored three textbooks and co-authored a fourth on computer programming, and was instrumental in the evolution of computer use by students and faculty. ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9050](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9050)).

#### Initial Academic Year 2011-2012 Plans and Priorities

In his fall 2011 welcome letter, ([www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=9077](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=9077)), President Thomas indicated that *Higher Values in Higher Education* will continue to serve as a guiding force for Western Illinois University and that our immediate goals for Western include:

- Enhancing graduation and retention rates, which have already surpassed the national average.
- Increasing scholarship opportunities.
- Redefining the Honors College and the First Year Experience (FYE).
- Increasing enrollment.
- Opening Building One on the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus and continuing with Phase II of the Riverfront Campus project.
- Moving forward with the Performing Arts Center.

In addition to these priorities, Dr. Thomas will be meeting with all campus governance groups to discuss additional presidential initiatives. These conversations will occur during the fall semester.

#### Key Dates and Events

- The annual Community-University Partnership Program Block Party will be held from 5-7 p.m. on the front lawn of Sherman Hall Wednesday, August 24.
- New and returning WIU-Quad Cities students, faculty and staff, as well as those from Black Hawk College and Scott Community College, are invited to attend the WIU-QC Society of Educators Block Party from 4-7 p.m. Friday, September 9 on the front lawn of the 60th Street campus in Moline.
- The first home football game will be Saturday, September 10 at 3 p.m. against Jacksonville.
- On Friday, September 23, WIU will celebrate Founders' Day and the Presidential Inauguration on the Macomb campus. This year, we will be celebrating the 109th anniversary of the first day of classes at WIU, and President Thomas will be presenting the Inaugural Address. Doors open at 11:15 a.m., lunch is served at 11:30 a.m., the Inaugural and Founders' Day Celebration is at 12:10 p.m., with dessert reception at 1:30 p.m.
- WIU will also celebrate Founders' Day Monday, September 26 at 9 a.m. on the WIU-Quad Cities 60th Street campus.

We hope that everyone can attend these events. If you have any questions regarding these events, information presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update*, and/or feedback regarding the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

cc: President Thomas  
Provost Hawkinson  
Vice President Bainter  
Vice President Biller  
Vice President DeWees

CSEC Pres. Rupert  
COAP President Grimm  
Faculty Council Chair Rowson  
Faculty Senate Chair Rock  
SGA Chairs Copi and Rosenow

Associate Provost Neumann  
Associate Provost Parsons  
Assistant Vice President Williams  
Planning, Budget, and IR Staff  
President's Office Support Staff