

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: July 21, 2011

Re: July 2011 Strategic Plan Update

Western Illinois University again received national recognition for advancing academic excellence and educational opportunity. The Center for Student Opportunity recognized the Learning to Lead program and the Chronicle of Higher Education recognized Western's participation in a new Dual Enrollment program as national best practices. Additional details are provided below.

#### Learning to Lead

According to its website, [csopportunity.org](http://csopportunity.org), the mission of the Center for Student Opportunity (CSO) is to empower underserved, first-generation college students by providing critical information, guidance, scholarships, and ongoing support. With this mission, the CSO sends a monthly newsletter to college partners, students and schools, and community organizations. The July 2011 edition (<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/293966/2fe7f2458d/1384001237/7bf24d4699/>) featured six institutions. In citing Western, the newsletter said:

“The Learning to Lead program is a three-year comprehensive leadership experience designed to help students develop their leadership style and ability throughout their time at Western. Students apply for and are selected to take part in the program their first year at Western and then take part in several different leadership experiences over the course of their time at Western.”

More specifically, Academic Affairs and Student Services support the three-year program for students to develop and apply their leadership skills. A competitive program, students must apply and be accepted to take part in this program during their first year on campus. The program includes both curricular and experiential components, and requires completion of a leadership course (Leadership 101; Recreation, Park and Tourism 490), a leadership seminar and workshop series, and a minimum of 10 hours of community service for each semester that they are in the program. The Learning to Lead Summer Institute includes a summer internship in Washington, D.C., and a senior leadership/portfolio project.

Joining Western in receiving national best practices were Brown University (Fall Pre-Orientation Programs), Georgia State University (The Golzueta Foundation Scholarship Fund Award), Hardin-Simmons University (Student Success Seminar/New Student Orientation), Montclair State University (Educational Opportunity Fund program), and the University of Southern California (Black Alumni Association).

#### Dual Enrollment

Your *March 2011 Strategic Plan Update* provided details on Western Illinois University's participation in the Illinois Student Assistance Program's new MAP 2+2 Pilot Program. Spoon River College decided to participate as a dual admission school and Black Hawk College and Carl Sandburg College decided to partner as dual enrollment schools. The July 20, 2011 edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

([http://chronicle.com/article/Illinois-Tests-a-Financial/128226/?sid=at&utm\\_source=at&utm\\_medium=en](http://chronicle.com/article/Illinois-Tests-a-Financial/128226/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)) noted that nine four-year colleges, both public and private, in partnership with one or more community colleges, were selected to participate in the program. Western (for dual enrollment), Southern, and Governors State were featured in the article.

In the dual enrollment program: (1) Students admitted to the University under published freshman or transfer admissions standards take at least one class at Western and the remainder at the community college each semester during the freshman and sophomore years; and (2) The MAP 2+2 Pilot Program assesses dually enrolled students university rates for community college courses in the calculation of MAP grant funding. However, students only pay the actual tuition and fee rates for the institution(s) attended. All variance dollars are “banked” until the junior and senior year when it is divided equally between the two years and added to the MAP maximum in determining the amount of grant aid that will be provided to the student.

Financial analysis presented in your *March 2011 Strategic Plan Update* showed that:

- The total four-year cost of attendance on the Macomb Campus is over \$90,000. Participation in dual enrollment program reduces the total cost by approximately one-third. It also reduces total student debt by one-half, and unmet financial need by two-thirds.
- The expected four-year total cost at WIU-QC with partner community colleges under dual enrollment programs range from \$42,258 to \$44,051. Comparative costs at other local four-year institutions (holding tuition and fees constant and assuming housing waivers to be consistent with the WIU Cost Guarantee and Quad Cities commuter campus) are \$113,664 at Saint Ambrose University and \$139,032 at Augustana College. The choice for the WIU-QC/community college partnership can save students up to 70 percent on their total cost of attendance.
- With dual enrollment, student debt loads are significantly reduced for Macomb and are below annual Stafford loan annual thresholds in the Quad Cities. Depending on the student choice of WIU location, participation in dual enrollment significantly reduces or eliminates student need for additional sources of revenue (e.g., work, individual, and/or family loans) to support university attendance.

In addition the financial benefits, the *Chronicle* article supported the importance of institutional familiarity in helping to avoid “transfer shock” that is a well documented effect in the literature that contributes to decreased student performance and increased student attrition rates the first semester or year after transfer from a community college. A WIU student, Mr. Edwin Moore, who is taking classes at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities and Black Hawk College commented further on the importance of these issues in the article.

It is exciting for the University to be recognized in the *Chronicle*. The MAP 2+2 Pilot Program is an extension of the former “Linkages” program with Black Hawk College and the “Western Illinois Advantage” program with Carl Sandburg College that allowed community college students to enroll at the University as non-degree seeking students. The State replicated Western’s program and extended it to all degree-seeking students, which provides students access to all forms of financial assistance, as there are some sources that do not allow non-degree students to qualify. All participating students, whether receiving financial assistance or not, will continue to receive the additional benefit of the University’s Cost Guarantee.

As both Learning to Lead and Dual Enrollment shows, the faculty and staff of Western Illinois University on both campuses continue the successful advancement of the priorities and goals in *Higher Values in Higher Education*. Should you have any questions regarding the material presented in this month’s *Update* and/or feedback as we continue successfully advancing our University’s *Strategic Plan*, please contact me.

cc: President Thomas	CSEC Pres. Herrington	Associate Provost Neumann
Provost Hawkinson	COAP President Grimm	Associate Provost Parsons
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