

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees  
Cathy Early, Chair      Will Gradle  
Roger Clawson      Todd Lester  
Lyneir Cole      Steve Nelson  
Carolyn Ehlert Fuller      Yvonne Savala

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

Date: August 29, 2016

Re: August 2016 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides examples from the many *Higher Values in Higher Education* accomplishments occurring during the summer and first week of the fall semester. The data clearly show that there is positive momentum and progress at Western Illinois University, as we become the national leader in quality, opportunity, and affordability.

#### Background

Western Illinois University entered the summer session building on the achievements of the spring semester. A total of 1,669 students earned academic degrees or post-baccalaureate certificates after the Spring 2016 semester.

Fifteen Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets were also commissioned as second lieutenants in the United States Army during the spring commencement weekend. Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart, Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and Commander of the Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance gave the cadets their oath of office.

Just as students achieved their educational goals, so too did the University. With regard to the advancement of the university's values, goals and priorities:

#### Academic Excellence

- *College Choice* ranked Western Illinois University as the 44<sup>th</sup> Best Midwestern Regional University and the School of Nursing as the 18<sup>th</sup> Best Online RN to BSN Degree Program.
- Niche.com ranked Western Illinois University as the fourth best Illinois public university, and as the top Illinois public regional university.
- Two hundred and seventy undergraduate students earned Summer 2016 Dean's List status. All of these students achieved a minimum 3.60 semester grade point average in 12 or more credit hours of graded course work that excludes pass-fail hours (e.g., student teaching, internships).
- Karissa Kouchis, a Western Illinois University student-athlete, received a Postgraduate Scholarship from the National Collegiate Athletic Association for high academic achievement. She is the eight Western student-athlete to receive this Scholarship.
- Semaj Arnold, Stuart Bartlett, and Nicole Spencer received Gilman Scholarships from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens, receiving Pell Grant funds, and planning to study abroad in one country for at least 28 days are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Each recipient receives between \$3,000 and \$3,500 for their studies.

- The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees granted tenure to 21 faculty members in June. The Board also approved 38 faculty promotions at this time. A complete listing of individuals earning tenure and/or promotions is available at [www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=13711](http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=13711).
- Dr. Peppi Kenny from Accounting and Finance received the Academy of Finance's Distinguished Teaching Award for instructional excellence at the Academy's national meeting in Chicago.
- Dr. Steve Rock from Economics and Decision Sciences was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors for The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society.

### Educational Opportunity

- The Center for the Application of Information Technologies developed the nation's first technology that allows inmates to earn their GED while abiding by the no-Internet policy upheld by most county jails and correctional facilities in the United States.
- Western Illinois University and Carl Sandburg College renewed a decade-long Bachelor of Arts in General Studies (BGS) degree program agreement. The agreement allows Sandburg students to participate in Western's Cost Guarantee program; provides maximum transferability from Sandburg associate degree programs (associate in arts, associate in science, and associate in applied science); and allows Sandburg students to transfer 80 semester hours into the BGS program.
- The University continues to develop Linkages (dual enrollment) and 2+2 transfer articulation agreements with Elgin Community College, Heartland College (Bloomington/Normal), Lewis and Clark College (Godfrey), and Saint Louis Community College.
- New off-campus locations were opened in Ottawa and LaSalle, Illinois, to allow place-bound working professionals the opportunity to earn the University's Educational Specialist degree.
- Students from Shanghai Customs College (China) spent three weeks on the Macomb Campus studying American Policies, border issues, customs, and the American criminal justice system.
- I was elected Vice President/President Elect for the National Association of Branch Campus Administrators.
- The Western Illinois University Foundation successfully cultivated seven new endowed student scholarships:
  - The Tom J. Berntson Scholarship for Chemistry.
  - The Alice Robison Berntson Scholarship for Psychology.
  - The Tom J. and Alice R. Berntson Scholarship for Foreign Languages.
  - The Dennis A. Lubbs Memorial Geography Scholarship.
  - The Samuel H. Edsall Endowed Scholarship.
  - The Norm and Judy Rocke Physics Scholarship.
  - The Norm and Judy Rocke Mathematics Scholarship.
- The Moline Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs in support of the University's new Master of Arts in Community and Economic Development degree program. This program offers courses online and in hybrid format on the Quad Cities Campus.
- The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust awarded Western Illinois University-Quad Cities a \$161,000 grant to create a state-of-the-art computer-aided design classroom and an innovation laboratory in Riverfront Hall. A dedication ceremony for the renovated classrooms was held in August.

Personal Growth and Social Responsibility

The majority of examples in this section were implemented during the first week of the new academic year, and result from summer planning efforts.

- The University hosted New Student Convocation in Macomb, the President's Family Picnic, and Rocky After Dark: First Night at Hanson Field. There was also a New Student Welcome and Welcome Week activities culminating in a block party on the Quad Cities Campus.
- The 2016-17 University theme: "Economy: Moral Challenges and Opportunities" has been launched with many curricular and co-curricular activities planned throughout the academic year.
- The Western Illinois University Community Music School added an Honors Musicianship Certificate Program for junior and senior high school-aged musicians. Students will complete classes in music theory, history, and ear training; attend seminars and special performance classes; and perform in two recitals as part of this program.
- Serve Illinois: The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service awarded Western Illinois University-Quad Cities \$200,000 to support 40 AmeriCorps volunteers. The volunteers will tutor and mentor at-risk youth in the Quad Cities, with the Preschool Component based in the Esperanza Center in Moline's Floreciente Neighborhood. The award amount granted to the University is double the funding value received in Fiscal Year 2016.
- The College of Business and Technology announced plans to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Several events will be held throughout the 2016-17 academic year, beginning with a reunion for current and former administrators, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends. The reception will be held from 4-7 p.m. September 1<sup>st</sup> in the University Union Lamoine Room.
- The College of Arts and Sciences announced that Dr. Edward J. Woell from History will present the 14<sup>th</sup> annual John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture. Dr. Woell's lecture, entitled "The Public Sphere of Past and Present, and the Place of the Liberal Arts," will be presented at 3 p.m. August 31<sup>st</sup> on the Quad Cities Campus in rooms 103 and 104 of Riverfront Hall, and at 7 p.m. September 1<sup>st</sup> in the University Union Grand Ballroom.
- President Thomas hosted Mayor's Summits in Macomb and Moline to discuss how community and university leaders can partner to advance shared community, university, and regional priorities and goals. A third Summit is planned for Quincy in October.

The data provided in this month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows that Western Illinois University had a successful summer in advancing the goals and priorities of *Higher Values in Higher Education*. Furthermore, this positive momentum and progress continues into the fall semester.

Future strategic plan updates will keep you apprised on the status of university planning activities. Please contact me in the interim if you have any questions about the materials presented in this month's *Update* and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

cc: President Thomas  
Interim Provost Neumann  
Vice President Bainter  
Interim Vice President Williams  
Interim Vice President Bierman

CSEC President Dorethy  
COAP President Koltzenburg  
Faculty Council Ch. Pillutla  
Faculty Senate Chair Pynes  
SGA President Svirupskaite

SGA President Frank  
Associate Provost Parsons  
Associate Provost Morgan  
Planning, Budget, and IR Staff  
President's Office