

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
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From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities and Planning

Date: July 18, 2017

Re: July 2017 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* invites you to a special series of events reinforcing Western Illinois University's long-standing tradition and commitment to serving the military. From July 26-30, 2017, WQPT will host The Wall That Heals (The Wall) and a series of complementary events, including a Veterans History Project, televised screenings, Military Kids Day, and other special ceremonies.

The Wall is half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was unveiled by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and has traveled for exhibitions across the United States. It will receive a motorcycle and police escort to the Quad Cities campus on July 26th.

The Wall's Opening Ceremony will be at 9AM, July 27th on the lawn west of the Quad Cities Complex. The complete event schedule is available on the right hand side of the page at <http://wqpt.org/military/>. All of these events are free and open to the public. Volunteer opportunities are also available for this special week. You can sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054bafad28aafa7-wall>. Whether attending and/or volunteering at these events, you are advancing social responsibility.



Western Illinois University earned *Military Friendly School* distinction by *G.I. Jobs Magazine* (Victory Media) for the eighth consecutive year in December 2016. The University also achieved *Gold School Status* in the *Large Public School* category (more than 10,000 students). We are one of only 108 institutions in the nation to receive this top designation in meeting and exceeding classroom and career needs of military and veteran students.

WQPT's hosting The Wall is part of the station's *Embracing Our Military* initiative. This initiative reinforces the goals of the President's Executive Institute to engage external organizations and increase military/veteran outreach. Unity Point Health Trinity serves as The Wall's Sponsor. Other sponsors supporting *Embracing Our Military* events are located on the bottom of the page at <http://www.wqpt.org/military/>.

I hope to see you at The Wall. Please also contact me if you have questions, and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of the University's *Strategic Plan* and the President's Executive Institute.

cc: President Thomas CSEC President Dorethy SGA President Frank
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