Western Illinois University President Jack Thomas, along with the WIU Foundation and its Board of Directors, announce the successful completion of the $60 million Higher Values in Higher Education Campaign. The campaign officially ended Dec. 31, 2013, raising a total of $62.1 million.

“I would like to thank all of the generous individuals, foundations and corporations that contributed to this success,” Thomas said. “Because of you, Western’s core values will be translated into action and our students will have enhanced educational opportunities. The higher education landscape has changed drastically in the last decade, and private support is necessary to maintain excellence and ensure student success.”

The Higher Values in Higher Education Campaign set out to raise $60 million in support of four objectives: student scholarships, faculty support, capital improvement and information and technologies.

“The Higher Values in Higher Education Campaign for Western Illinois University represents only the second philanthropic campaign in the 114-year history of Western,” said Brad Bainter, vice president for advancement and public services and executive officer of the Foundation. “Our first campaign, which ended in 2000, raised nearly $5 million more than its $20 million goal. I am extremely grateful to the leadership provided by President Thomas, President Emeritus Al Goldfarb and our dedicated Foundation Board. I am especially appreciative of the tremendous support we received from our alumni and friends. Finally, I want to thank all Western’s development officers and Foundation staff members for their hard work to help us exceed our goal.”

According to Bainter, the success of the campaign has had a tremendous impact on the WIU Foundation. The University’s endowment has increased to $40 million from $16 million, and the institution’s total asset base is now approximately $55 million. Earnings from the endowment support student scholarships, academic programs, critical University needs and many initiatives on both campuses. Planned gifts also comprise part of the $62 million total.

“On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I thank each and every donor who contributed to the success of this campaign,” said Foundation Board President Jim Lodico of Geneseo, Ill. “From the one-figure to the seven-figure gift, each makes a difference and improves the education we offer our students.”

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Many campaign funds have gone directly to scholarships, academics, athletics, performing arts, lab equipment and research activities. “Western has achieved so much and experienced so many positives during these difficult economic times,” said Bainter. “Words really cannot express our appreciation for the generosity shown during this campaign. The real success of the campaign is the impact on our students and our campuses. I invite you to visit either the Macomb or Quad Cities campus to see for yourself how your investment contributes to the vitality of this great University.”

Hawkinson African Study Abroad Scholarship Established

Western Illinois University Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkinson and his wife, Ann Marie, director of the WIU Art Gallery, have established an endowment to support an African Study Abroad Scholarship. “This scholarship ties together two of the most important events in my life: attending Western Illinois University and serving two years in the Peace Corps in Africa,” said Hawkinson. “I gained so much from my experience in Africa that I would like to provide the opportunity for cultural and educational exchange to students today.”

Hawkinson earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western (1978 and 1979, respectively) before completing a Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University. After serving in the U.S. Army, he spent two years in Mali, West Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer, and later served as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching at the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso (West Africa).

Hayes-Hawkinson was named director of the Western Illinois University Art Gallery in August 2012. She previously served as curator of education at the Figge Art Museum (formerly Davenport Museum of Art) and was an adjunct instructor in Western’s Museum Studies program at the WIU-Quad Cities campus. Prior to this, Hayes-Hawkinson served as the curator of education at the Davenport Museum of Art and was a curatorial assistant at the Spencer Museum of Art in Lawrence, KS.

“My strong interest in the arts provided the focus of study for this study abroad experience, while Ken’s experience in Africa contributed the geographical emphasis for the scholarship,” said Hayes-Hawkinson. “It is a good time for us to establish the scholarship, and we are pleased to do it.”

The endowment will award a study abroad scholarship to an African student coming to Western to study art, music, theatre or literature, or to a Western student attending an African university to study art, music, theatre or literature. Provisions are also included to extend the scholarship to a faculty member once in a four-year period based on the same criteria.

“As provost, I feel it is important to give back to the University that has given so much to me, personally and professionally, as well as do something tangible, beyond the scope of my professional responsibilities, to support students,” Hawkinson said.

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“These are tough times for students, and we felt a calling to step up and support these cultural exchanges,” said Hayes-Hawkinson.

“Ken has for many years supported areas of campus: his department and college (communication; College of Fine Arts and Communication), the Department of History, Tri-States Public Radio, The Performing Arts Society, The Centennial Honors College and Veteran's Assistance, and has had a planned gift on file since 1979,” said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter. “Now Ken and Ann Marie have made a further investment in the institution and our students. I speak for the Foundation staff and board of directors in saying we are most grateful for Ken and Ann Marie's generosity, for the support they are giving our students and the gesture of philanthropy they are making as leaders of Western Illinois University.”

George Hermann Graduate Scholarship in Sport Management

Former teacher, coach, professor, graduate coordinator and department chair George Hermann has established a graduate scholarship in kinesiology for sport management majors.

“It’s fun for me to share,” said Hermann. “I enjoy giving some of my resources away and seeing someone benefit from them.”

The George Hermann Graduate Scholarship in Sport Management will be awarded annually to a full-time sport management major with a grade point average of 3.0 or above and who has demonstrated financial need. The $50,000 endowment will initially support a $2,000 annual scholarship award.

Hermann came to Western Illinois University in 1967 to teach physical education in what was then the College of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER). During his 20-year tenure at WIU, he served as assistant/associate/full professor, graduate coordinator for men's physical education, graduate coordinator for the College of HPER, and associate chair and chair of the WIU Men's Physical Education Department.

One lasting legacy of Hermann's professional career is the annual Western Illinois Senior Olympics. He founded the program in the fall of 1980, and he organized the first regional games in spring of 1981. Hermann served as the state coordinator for the Illinois Regional Senior Olympics for 23 years. He participated in the Western Illinois Senior Olympics, where he still holds two records, and held records in the Illinois State Senior Olympics for many years.

In 1982, Hermann was a group leader of the Delegation of U.S. Educators to Ancient Olympia, Greece in 1982. “This was one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my professional life,” he said.

Hermann went on to take a sabbatical in 1985 to research youth sport programs in the United States and East and West Germany. In 1988, he taught a graduate course in sport management for the United States Sports Academy in Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

At WIU, Hermann was instrumental in developing the sport management program in 1972.

“The early years were difficult because an internship was required and back then internships were not common, said Hermann. We had to limit the number of students in the program to the number of available internships.”

Today, Western's program is one of the oldest and most established in the United States.

“Dr. Hermann has contributed many things to Western,” said Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter. “This generous scholarship will help the program he helped create and forever associate Dr. Hermann with the success of the sport management graduates. We so appreciate all he has done for Western.”
WIU alumnus and Director of Annual Giving Tim Hallinan runs through fire (literally) to support students. Hallinan competes in Spartan Races, recently hitting the “trifecta” of three obstacle course races (OCR) challenges in a calendar year. Each race, Hallinan invited friends, family, and co-workers to sponsor him. All proceeds were directed to a new Phonathan Scholarship.