

# Western Illinois University

## Board of Trustees Meeting

December 6, 2024

### Contents

Update No. 01 -- Student Government Association, Macomb .....	6
Update No. 02 -- Student Government Association, Quad Cities .....	7
Update No. 03 -- Faculty Senate .....	8
Update No. 04 -- Faculty Council .....	9
Update No. 05 -- Civil Service Employees Council .....	10
Update No. 06 -- Council of Administrative Personnel.....	12
Update No. 07 -- QC Outreach and Operations .....	14
Update No. 08 -- Athletics .....	18
Update No. 09 -- Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity.....	20
Update No. 10 -- Government Relations .....	28
Report No. 24.12/1 -- Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending September 30, 2024.....	29
Report No. 24.12/2 -- Purchases of \$100,000 - \$499,999.99 .....	30
Report No. 24.12/3 -- Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 1st Quarter.....	32
Report No. 24.12/4 -- Undergraduate Admissions and Student Success.....	37
Report No. 24.12/5 -- Academic Affairs Report.....	42
Report No. 24.12/6 -- Report on Contributions .....	72
Report No. 24.12/7 -- University Marketing and Communications.....	80
Report No. 24.12/8 -- Committee to Assess Presidential Appointment – Findings Report .....	90
Resolution No. 24.12/1 -- Appointing the 13 <sup>th</sup> President of Western Illinois University.....	105
Resolution No. 24.12/2 -- Initiating Exploratory Actions for a Presidential Search .....	106
Resolution No. 24.12/3 -- Purchases of \$500,000 and Over.....	107
Resolution No. 24.12/4 -- Disposition of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Audio Recordings .....	108
Resolution No. 24.12/5 -- New Audit Department Charter .....	110
Resolution No. 24.12/6 -- Appointment and Approval of Trustee to Chair the Board of Trustees Audit Committee.....	117
Resolution No. 24.12/7 -- UPI, Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO ProTech – 2023-2026 Bargaining Agreement.....	118

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb, Illinois

## **December 6, 2024 – University Union Capital Room**

**Motion to Convene to Open Session – 8:00 a.m.** **Action**

**Roll Call** **Action**

**Motion to Convene to Closed Session** **Action**

**Motion to Convene to Open Session** **Action**

**Break**

**Open Session – 9:30 a.m.**

**Public Comments**

### **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Review and approval of August 6, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of September 26, 2024 Open and Closed Meeting Minutes and the September 27, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of October 11, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes and Retreat Meeting Minutes

### **Chairperson’s Remarks**

Mrs. Carin Stutz, Chair

### **President’s Remarks**

Interim President Kristi Mindrup

### **Recognize Trustee Doug Shaw**

### **Advisory Groups Update**

1. Student Government Association, Emir Miranda (Macomb)
2. Student Government Association, Harrison Dehnert (Quad Cities)
3. Faculty Senate, Jeremy Robinett
4. Faculty Council Co-Chairs, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner and Dana Lindemann
5. Civil Service Employees Council, Natalie Divan

6. Council of Administrative Personnel, Holly Sutton
7. QC Outreach and Operations, Audrey Adamson
8. Athletics, Paul Bubb
9. Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, Carl Ervin

## Agenda Topic

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### Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 24.12/1

Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending September 30, 2024  
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 24.12/2

Purchases of \$100,000 -- \$499,999.99  
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 24.12/3

Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 1st Quarter  
(Director of Sponsored Projects, Shannon Sutton)

Report No. 24.12/4

Undergraduate Admissions and Student Success  
(Interim Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch)

Report No. 24.12/5

Academic Affairs Report  
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.12/6

Report on Contributions  
(Vice President for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Athletics, Clare Thompson)

Report No. 24.12/7

University Marketing and Communications  
(Interim Assistant Vice President of Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations, Alisha Looney)

Report No. 24.12/8

Committee to Assess Presidential Appointment – Findings Report,  
(Committee Chair, Trustee Derek Wise)

### Resolutions and Action Items

**Action**

Resolution No. 24.12/1

Appointing the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Western Illinois University  
(Interim General Counsel, Torrey Smith)

**Action**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Resolution No. 24.12/2<br>Initiating Exploratory Actions for a Presidential Search<br>(Interim General Counsel, Torrey Smith)   | <b>Action</b> |
| Resolution No. 24.12/3<br>Purchases of \$500,000 and Over<br>(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)  | <b>Action</b> |
| Resolution No. 24.12/4<br>Disposition of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Audio Recordings<br>(Interim General Counsel, Torrey Smith)              | <b>Action</b> |
| Resolution No. 24.12/5<br>New Audit Department Charter<br>(Director of Internal Auditing, Rita Moore)   | <b>Action</b> |
| Resolution No. 24.12/6<br>Appointment and Approval of Trustee to Chair the Board of Trustees Audit Committee<br>(Director of Internal Auditing, Rita Moore)           | <b>Action</b> |
| Resolution No. 24.12/7<br>UPI, Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO ProTech – 2023-2026 Bargaining Agreement<br>(Executive Director of Human Resources, Cassandra Standberry) | <b>Action</b> |

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Next Meeting**

March 20, 2025 Closed and Open Session - Macomb Campus in the University Union, Capital Room

**Adjourn**

**Action**

- The meetings audio will be streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/WesternIllinoisU>
- Public comments will be held to a total of 30 minutes. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes for those speaking in person and 500 words for those writing. Those who wish to have your comments read, please email them to Athena Brooks at [AM-Brooks@WIU.edu](mailto:AM-Brooks@WIU.edu) by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Thursday, December 5, 2024.
- Trustees will meet in person.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:

August 6, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024 Open and Closed Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2024 Open Meeting Minutes and Retreat Meeting Minutes

Minutes will be available for review at:

[http://www.wiu.edu/board\\_of\\_trustees/minutes/index.php](http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php)

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Update No. 01 -- Student Government Association, Macomb

No written report submitted.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

### Update No. 02 -- Student Government Association, Quad Cities

Student Government Association Quad Cities. – December 2024

Members of the board,

In my previous address, I discussed that in light of the changes being made to both the Quad Cities and Macomb campuses, communication from this administration would prove paramount in fostering the hearts of our students- and maintaining good faith- as we navigate this financial hardship. I have seen that the administration has heard this message. Dr. Kristi Mindrup hosted town hall meetings on both the Quad Cities and Macomb campuses, providing our students an opportunity to engage in an honest, direct dialog with this administration. However, despite the obvious desire to foster communication, the system with which this University disseminates crucial information to their students is inherently flawed. If our student's feel the only way to get answers from this university is to have the interim president personally show up to our campus- and a sizable portion do feel this way- then the systems we are currently utilizing to communicate with students is ineffective. Moreover, the importance of ensuring this institution is disseminating accurate information to students cannot be understated. To have students be informed by Administration that their major is being discontinued, only for the university to backtrack and claim they were operating on misinformation is unacceptable. If our students feel that they face difficulties getting answers from this institution in addition to being skeptical that the information being provided is- in fact accurate, we only serve to further discredit our institution. In short, we need to first, critically evaluate the means of internal communication to ensure that everyone is on the same page. Second, we need to revamp the means by which information is shared between campuses and disseminated to our students; and it is here that I believe SGA can be pivotal in rebuilding trust with our communities as well as serving as a source of comfort and information to our students.

As always, SGA and our fellow student organizations are working tirelessly to build a university that we can all be proud of. We have turned our efforts to looking for ways to improve our campus through charity as well as providing students opportunities to enjoy their time here at Western. I ask that this board and administration continue to work with the diligence and excellence we expect of our students and ourselves; so that we can continue to improve ourselves and display the excellence that I know this university possesses. Thank you for your time and consideration on this and all future matters.

-Harrison Dehnert, Student Government Association Quad Cities.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Update No. 03 -- Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate  
Report to the Board of Trustees  
December 6, 2024

Faculty continue to fulfill their responsibilities in regard to participating in shared governance. The Faculty Senate Committees and Councils recently provided updates on how they're completing the charges given to them by Faculty Senate. Additionally, the Faculty Senate has considered curricular issues, is engaged in conversations about space allocation, and has regularly engaged with Vice President Roselieb and Budget Director Georges to better understand university budget and expenses.



# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Update No. 04 -- Faculty Council

Faculty Council  
Report to the Board of Trustees  
December 6, 2024

The Quad Cities Faculty Council has hosted several informal gatherings this semester as well as a regular business meeting on November 8. Some of its members plan to attend the QC "Insights and Innovations" meeting with Dr. Mindrup and Dr. Mossman on December 3. This will be the first time that WIU administrators and QC faculty have had a large group discussion since last summer's layoffs and transfers announcement.

**Report submitted by Everett Hamner**

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

### Update No. 05 -- Civil Service Employees Council

Civil Service Employees Council – December 2024

The Civil Service Employees Council has been busy since we last met. We hosted our fall luncheon on Thursday, October 31 in the University Union Grand Ballroom complete with a costume contest for attendees and a bucket style auction. Dr. Mindrup was the judge and had a tough choice as there were so many individual and group costumes. Congratulations to Monica Eskridge, Academic Advisor in COEHS, who won with her I Love Lucy at the Chocolate Factory costume. We had 84 attendees and raised \$412.45 which goes towards our CSEC scholarships. We offer dependent scholarships as well an employee book award for current CS employees enrolled in courses. All of the raffle items were graciously donated and I would like to thank the following for their donations:

Bold Brew House

Dr. Mindrup

WIU Athletics

WIU Bookstore

WIU OPS and Parking Services

WIU Photography and Design Production

WIU University Union Scheduling and Event Services

CSEC hosted a Town Hall with Interim President Mindrup on November 6 in the Union and on zoom. Provost Mossman and VP Roselieb were on the panel as well. This was rescheduled from September. We appreciate the honesty and time taken to explain and answer concerns.

On November 7, the employees affected by the layoffs started their new positions or were done at the University. Three of the 13 employees who were laid off and had no rights have been rehired in different classifications. These positions were vacant and these individuals went through the testing and interviewing process with HR. Based on this, we only lost 10 civil service employees.

We are anxiously awaiting the next phase of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), effective January 1, 2025, when the threshold for exempt employees changes from \$43,888 per year to \$58,656 per year. In July of this year, the threshold for exempt employees was raised to \$43,888. There were around 44 employees affected by this and they were notified in September of the change. An employee was either kept as exempt and raised to the new threshold or was moved to an hourly pay. There was a gap in pay cycles and the university allowed those being moved from exempt (bimonthly pay cycle) to hourly (biweekly pay cycle) to cash in up to 75 hours of accrued leave for a lump sum payment. Originally, CSEC was told those being affected in January would be notified starting November 1, but that has been delayed. The group reviewing each employee was set to meet again mid-November.

Cassandra Standberry mentioned the FLSA for January is already being contested by some states, although she did not say Illinois. VP Roselieb has stated the plan of those affected should be communicated by mid-November. WIU will take the same interim measures as they did with affected employees on the July 1 round and let them know they are able to utilize accrued leave with the switch in payroll cycles.

I continue to meet monthly with Dr. Mindrup to address concerns and get questions answered. VP Roselieb and a representative from HR meets with our group monthly as well. We hope to continue these open lines of communication, no matter what happens with future decisions.

CSEC continues to review nominations for CSEC employee of the month. Each employee of the month receives \$100 (before taxes), a plaque, and reserved parking space for a month. We honored the following this fall:

September - Brian Beck, Garage Foreman, Transportation Services, Facilities Management

October - Karin Chouinard, Webmaster, uTech, Quad Cities Campus

November - Sean Park, VASDC Program Manager, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

After December's nominations are reviewed, we will select an employee of the year, which receives \$500 (before taxes) and a plaque.

I am trying to be better at communication as a whole with the now 570 current civil service employees. We currently have 13 members and I believe it is our job to share the information we receive and dispel rumors. I will be working to post meeting minutes and updates to our website.

**Natalie Divan**  
CSEC President

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Update No. 06 -- Council of Administrative Personnel



### Report for the Board of Trustees December 2024

The Council of Administrative Personnel (COAP) hosted two development sessions this semester. The primary focus of the sessions was to provide communication and transparency to the COAP membership pertaining to University changes. President Mindrup provided updates and answered numerous questions during our September session. A second session held in October allowed the COAP membership to ask questions of President Mindrup and Cabinet members. We would like to thank President Mindrup and the Cabinet members for their time and participation.

COAP launched its Snowball Effect campaign. A campaign to encourage a small monthly gift to build momentum together! Funds raised will support a \$250 Professional Development Scholarship, awarded to a COAP employee this spring.



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees for requesting our participation in the process to assess presidential appointment.

COAP thanks the Board of Trustees and the campus leadership for your ongoing support and guidance.

Respectfully submitted by the COAP Executive Board

Holly Sutton, President

Lorette Oden, Vice President

Paul Bubb, Past President

Lisa Melz-Jennings, Secretary/Treasurer

Miguel Huerta, Area Representative - Academic Services

Tim Hallinan, Area Representative - Advancement, Alumni Relations, and Athletics

Bobbi Smith, Area Representative - Finance and Administration  
Carl Ervin, Area Representative - President's Area

Audrey Adamson, Area Representative - Quad Cities

Samantha Klingler, Area Representative - Student Success

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Update No. 07 -- QC Outreach and Operations

**Western Illinois University - Quad Cities Campus Highlights**  
**Audrey Adamson, Executive Director of Outreach and Quad Cities Operations**  
**September 2024**

Western Illinois University – Quad Cities remains committed to addressing community needs, forging new partnerships, and delivering high-quality education, all while maintaining fiscal responsibility and staying prepared for future opportunities, in line with university goals and the WIU-QC Strategic Initiatives Plan. This report provides an overview of recent changes on campus and showcases the deliberate efforts of WIU-QC departments and individuals that positively impact both the university and the surrounding region.

### *Operational streamlining and adapting to change*

To achieve facilities cost savings for the 2024-25 academic year, the Quad Cities campus reduced its operational footprint to Riverfront Hall and QC Complex C, with the closure of QC Complex buildings A and B two weeks prior to the start of classes. This required relocating all scheduled in-person classes to the open buildings, developing limited access plans for lab spaces in QC Complex A, and notifying students and faculty of these changes. Faculty with offices in buildings A and B were also relocated to new office spaces in other buildings.

To ensure continuity of student resources previously located in building A, a new Writing Center and Library Resource Desk were quickly established in Riverfront Hall, both fully operational by the start of the semester. Communications regarding these changes were sent to students, faculty, and staff via email and the weekly campus newsletter.

The success of this transition was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the QC Facilities and UTech teams, along with Alison Shook in the QC Admin office, who worked tirelessly to ensure the campus was ready for the semester. Student Services and Advising also played a key role in supporting students, answering questions, and ensuring a smooth start to the academic year. The flexibility and cooperation of faculty and staff, who managed unexpected relocations with understanding and resilience, have been greatly appreciated during this challenging time.

## *The launch of QCMI*

Western Illinois University – Quad Cities was proud to host the August 23rd launch of the Quad Cities Manufacturing Institute (QCMI), welcoming over 100 community leaders, business representatives, and elected officials to the campus for the formal signing ceremony.

The QCMI represents a groundbreaking partnership between the University of Illinois System, Western Illinois University, and Iowa State University. This collaborative initiative is set to create a robust research and innovation ecosystem, driving benefits for local businesses, communities, and the regional workforce.

Key pillars of the QCMI partnership include:

- Collaborative research and development efforts
- Workforce training and professional development
- Access to shared research facilities and infrastructure
- Dynamic public-private partnerships, especially with private sector engagement
- Support for Department of Defense initiatives
- Development of cutting-edge technologies in collaboration with local and national industries

WIU-QC looks forward to playing a vital role in QCMI's success, with its campus resources, staff, and students integral to ensuring the project's positive impact on the Quad Cities region.

## *WIU-QC partnerships*

Community partnerships remain central to WIU-QC's mission.

Our ongoing collaboration with the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce and other regional higher education institutions is driving the development of programming that is more closely aligned with industry needs. Additionally, we continue to strengthen relationships with new regional employers, creating valuable connections for our students and reinforcing university ties within the community.

This summer and early fall, we welcomed a wide range of community events, including legislative forums, regional chess tournaments, a Touch-a-Truck event, Sierra Club training sessions, Gray Matters mental health meetings, and Parent Mentor support programs. These events not only foster community engagement but also raise awareness of WIU and its role in the region.

The IBHE Thrive Quad Cities draft report has provided valuable preliminary insights into the current educational and employer landscape in the area. WIU representatives actively participated in these discussions, and we look forward to the final report, which will guide our decision-making as we refine WIU-QC's offerings to better meet regional needs.

### ***Bilingual Learning Lab set to open***

Rocky's Play Space, Western Illinois University's bilingual early learning center located near downtown Moline, is slated to open next month. The center will accommodate up to 75 toddlers and preschoolers, serving a community with significant child care needs.

Eduardo Pérez has been appointed as the center's director, bringing over a decade of experience in early childhood and bilingual education. In his role, Pérez will oversee daily operations, lead hiring efforts, and guide the strategic direction of the center. Additionally, Pérez will continue to contribute to WIU's School of Education as an adjunct professor, teaching bilingual education courses.

Preparations are well underway, with additional staff being hired, final supplies purchased, and visits from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) scheduled. A community event to assist with playground setup is planned, alongside outreach events where families can begin registering their children.

The establishment of Rocky's Play Space has been a university-wide initiative, bringing together the expertise of colleagues from the School of Education, UTech, Facilities, and WIU-QC, under the leadership of Dr. Lindsay Meeker. The center is expected to make a lasting, positive impact on the community by addressing critical early childhood education needs.

### ***QC program highlights***

- **Counselor Education Program:** This fall, the Counselor Education graduate program welcomed 30 new students. The program continues to play a vital role in addressing regional mental health professional shortages, contributing significantly to the well-being of the community.
- **Communication Faculty Collaboration:** Communication faculty members Chris Carpenter and Ted Avtgis, along with department chair Peter Jorgensen, facilitated a consensus-building discussion at the annual Association of Equipment Manager Professionals event, held this summer at John Deere World Headquarters. Their expertise helped guide important conversations among industry professionals.
- **SBDC Honors:** The Quad Cities-based Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has garnered national recognition. Maria Ramos was honored with the prestigious 40 Under 40 Award at the ASBDC Convention in Atlanta, while SBDC Director Ann Friederichs has been recognized as the State Star for Illinois, highlighting their outstanding contributions to small business development in the region.

### ***WQPT-PBS community impact***

WQPT successfully concluded its summer outreach programs, engaging over 2,200 children and 1,100 adults through a variety of impactful initiatives:

- **23 library visits** from Macomb to Morrison
- **13 community events**, including Bilingual Storytime and the Prime Beef Festival
- **11 summer school and park program visits**

These events were made possible thanks to the dedication of our ambassadors from local colleges, high schools, and middle schools.



We are also thrilled to announce that two students from the WIU-QC Parent Mentor Program have successfully earned their GED diplomas after two years of hard work and perseverance.

On **September 7**, in collaboration with Tri-States Public Radio, WQPT hosted a special screening of “More Than Monopoly,” a documentary produced by WQPT. This film celebrates Elizabeth "Lizzie" Magie, a Macomb native and the inventor of The Landlord's Game, the precursor to the iconic board game, Monopoly.

On **September 12**, WQPT partnered with Dr. Carrie Alexander-Albritton and WIU’s Department of Counselor Education, College Student Personnel, and Social Work to host a suicide prevention awareness event. This featured a screening of the documentary *A Reason to Live*, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Alexander-Albritton and involving clinical mental health counseling interns from WIU. The event was held in person at WIU Quad Cities and also streamed virtually for online attendees. That evening, the full-length version of *A Reason to Live* aired on WQPT PBS, highlighting 12 personal stories of young people and their families.

Looking ahead, WQPT is excited to host the **2024 Imagination Station on Saturday, October 19** at the Quad Cities Campus. This free event, made possible by the generous support of the Quad Cities community, offers a fun-filled day for kids to meet their favorite PBS characters, read with QCCAN Therapy Dogs, and explore creativity with Alina and Hamlet from *Being Bilingual Rocks!*. Attendees can also delve into STEM activities with the QC Botanical Center’s Plant Discovery Bus. Each PBS character will have their own activity station with engaging games and take-home resources designed to reinforce the educational themes of their programs. Additionally, every child will receive a free book through WQPT PBS’s First Book program.

In conclusion, Western Illinois University – Quad Cities continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to community engagement, regional partnerships, and academic excellence. Through strategic campus adjustments, collaborative initiatives like the Quad Cities Manufacturing Institute, and impactful community programs such as Rocky’s Play Space and WQPT’s outreach efforts, WIU-QC remains a driving force in the region. By aligning its operations with the WIU-QC Strategic Initiatives Plan, the campus is effectively responding to community needs, fostering educational innovation, and enhancing student experiences while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Looking ahead, WIU-QC’s efforts to build industry-aligned programs, strengthen partnerships, and create meaningful community impact will ensure its role as a vital educational and innovation hub in the Quad Cities. With the collective dedication of faculty, staff, students, and community partners, WIU-QC is poised to continue shaping the future of the region, while remaining a cornerstone of educational and professional growth.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Update No. 08 -- Athletics

### Western Illinois University

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Director of Athletics Update  
December 6, 2024

#### I. Staffing

- a. Head Coach, Women's Soccer – Athletics is currently looking for a new head coach with an anticipated hire before December 20. A search committee began review of applicants on November 18.
- b. Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance – This is a critical position for any NCAA Division I program and a search was launched in November. The committee conducted zoom and then in-person interviews in November and a hire is expected before November 29. An update will be provided on December 6.
- c. Track & Field has added an assistant coach (2 full time assistants at the present time) as part of the OCR-Title IX agreement signed in January 2023.

#### II. Budget

- a. Department as well as sport budgets continue to operate at a reduced rate with supplemental funds provided through fundraised funds managed by the WIU Foundation. All teams have been active in fundraising activities, including participation on Giving Tuesday (December 3). Results will be reported at the Board of Trustees meeting on December 6.

#### III. NCAA Legislation Impacting Western Illinois University Athletics

As a result of the House Settlement (<https://sports.yahoo.com/historic-house-ncaa-settlement-leaving-hundreds-of-olympic-sport-athletes-in-peril-125238713.html>), members of the Ohio Valley Conference are considering a course of action for Opting In or Opting Out of this agreement.

- a. Opting In – means the University is joining the settlement and its agreement to pay back funds to former student-athletes. Opting In also means a university will follow new NCAA policies for Roster Limits and awarding of financial aid.
- b. Opting Out – means the University will NOT join and will continue to follow NCAA sport scholarship limitations.

The House Settlement is more complicated than can be easily summarized, but the two main points for consideration of Opting In or Out are stated above. Additional documentation for Roster Limitations vs Scholarship Limitations is attached with charts showing both maximums.

The Ohio Valley Conference has established a committee to review the benefits of both options. Consideration for acting as a conference is being reviewed as well as whether individual members of the league can take action independently of the conference membership.

#### IV. Fall Sports Competition

- a. The volleyball team has enjoyed one of their best seasons since 2005, completing a regular season with a record of 17 wins and 12 losses (11 wins, 7 losses in OVC play). The team has qualified for the second consecutive year for the OVC Championships. Update to be provided at board meeting on December 6.
- b. Cross Country, under new head coach Scott Barnes and assistant coach Matt Rosado completed the season with the men finishing sixth at the OVC Championships while the women finished in fifth place. Logan Lommel and Madison Trevena both earned All-Conference honors.
- c. Men's Soccer finished the season with a record of 8 wins, 11 losses, and 1 tie (3 wins, 7 losses in OVC play) and qualified for the OVC Championships. With a freshman-dominated team, the Leathernecks lost in the opening round of the tournament to Lindenwood.
- d. Women's Soccer finished the season with a record of 1 win, 14 losses, and 1 tie (1 win, 7 losses, 1 tie in OVC play) and did not qualify for OVC post-season play.
- e. Football picked up their first win in three years in defeating McKendree at home and followed that up with wins at Charleston Southern and on Hall of Fame Day over Tennessee Tech. With one game to go in the season, the team's record of 3 wins and 8 losses is the best since 2018 when the team had 5 wins and 6 losses.
- f. OVC Overall Assessment – at this time the overall assessment of membership in the Ohio Valley Conference remains high. Teams feel competitive and capable of achieving success while, once again, appreciating travel that requires much less time on charter buses. With the longest travel being to Nashville, TN (7.5 hours); Cookeville, TN (8.5 hours); Morehead, KY (8 hours); and Little Rock, AR (8 hours, 15 min); all remaining teams fall in the 2.5 hours to 6 hours driving time range.

#### V. Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan from Spring 2023 continues to review and update goals with a focus this year on Attaining Competitive Success. A review of Ohio Valley Conference membership staffs, salaries, and scholarships per sport will be reviewed to evaluate Western's position and what the committee believes will be required to achieve and maintain competitive success within the OVC.

The athletic department is also reviewing positions that will be necessary, moving forward, to provide our student-athletes with a positive experience and our fans with an entertainment option they see as enjoyable and affordable

I would conclude my report by sharing, once again, our theme, we are -

**Many Teams, One Goal --- Student Success.**

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Update No. 09 -- Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 6, 2024

Office of Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (JIDE) Report

### **Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF)**

#### Overview

- The ARTF is composed of faculty, staff, students and community members. The co-chairs are Dr. Lorette Oden (Dean, Centennial Honors College) and Carl Ervin (Director, JIDE Office).
- In 2023-2024 the ARTF completed a WIU Campus Climate Survey and a WIU Equity Plan.
  - A Campus Climate Survey is scheduled for every 2 years. The next one is planned for the spring 2025 semester.
  - The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) provided feedback on equity plans in October.
- The 2024-2025 charge for ARTF is to assist with the university-wide initiative to address the equity gaps at WIU.

#### Programming

- Dr. Magdaleno Manzanarez, Vice President of External Affairs, Western New Mexico University, delivered an online presentation titled “Recruitment and Retention in a Hispanic-Serving Institution.” Shared tips and ideas on how to address the needs of minoritized students. (11.18.24)
- A Syllabus Workshop. A training session on how to create a more inclusive and supportive course syllabus. (12.10.24)
- Best Practices in Retention Workshop. A workshop to share strategies and approaches to assist faculty, staff and students on how to promote a climate of achievement, success and retention. (1.30.25 & 1.31.25)
- Cultural Conversations & Professional Aspirations Workshop. A look at the professional and personal context in interpersonal communication. An opportunity to think in terms of self-regulation and clearer communication. (Spring 2025)
- Dr. Huajie Shao, an AI expert, to visit WIU to discuss AI technology and the gaps, needs and preparations for success of underserved students. (Spring 2025)
- Additional presenters and their availability are under discussion.

## Black Student Association

- The organization had an active and engaged fall 2024. Programming included suicide awareness & prevention, study skills strategies, WIU Homecoming events, and partnerships with a number of student organizations.
- At the request of the BSA, a review & discussion of the BSA List of Demands has been postponed until spring 2025.
- The BSA list of Demands can be found at <https://www.wiu.edu/jide/bsa.php>

## Programming

- **A Shady Conversation.** A workshop with tips and strategies on how to discuss sensitive and controversial topics with civility and calm. (9.17.24)
- **Snack & Chat: What Is It Like to Be Me?** Noontime discussions with members of highlighted communities at WIU and those interested in learning more about the cultures. A series to promote cross-cultural communication and understanding.
  - Oct. 8 – Jewish community
  - Oct. 15 – Islamic community
  - Oct. 22 Caribbean community
  - Oct. 29 African community
  - Nov. 12 Asian & Indian community
  - Nov. 19 Mixed Race community
- **Unfiltered.** Honest talk and fearless conversation about what's going well and what can be done better with DEIB at WIU. Meeting held in convenient and comfortable locations for students. A collaboration with CSP565, RAs, and the QC SGA.
  - Oct. 14 – Olson Hall
  - Oct. 21 – Lincoln Hall
  - Oct. 28 – Thompson Hall
  - Nov. 14 – QC Rooms 103 &104
- **One Small Step.** A program to connect WIU and Macomb community members to a nation-wide project focused on small conversations across identities and cultures as a step forward in bringing understanding and change. (10.18.24 -10.25.24)
- **C.P.R.: Credit, Props & Recognition.** To reinforce good behaviors that happen both on-campus and off-campus, individuals were asked to submit descriptions of their positive DEIB experiences to be posted on the JIDE webpage. (10.16.24 -12.1.24)
- **A Shady Conversation: Council of Academic Advisors.** A workshop with tips and strategies on how to discuss sensitive and controversial topics with civility and calm. (11.1.24)
- **We Can Do Better: An Implicit Bias and Microaggressions Workshop.** An action-oriented workshop on what it takes to create inviting, respectful, welcoming and supportive professional and personal relationships with individuals from diverse backgrounds. (11.7.24)

- **Election Night Watch Party.** JIDE joined the Multicultural Center, Dept. of Political Science, Associated Students of Political Science, Unity, and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs to host an event that embraced the spirit of civic engagement. (11.5.24)
- **Illinois Political Science Association (IPSA) Conference.** Theme: Election Outcomes and DEI in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. JIDE joined the WIU Political Science Dept. to host an IPSA online conference that featured student presenters from WIU and across the state. (11.9.24)

### **Involvement**

- **Military Liaisons.** JIDE Director Ervin is a member of the WIU Military Liaisons Program. Offers support to military students and promotes JIDE as an available resource.
  - Sept. 4 – VRC Meet & Greet Open House
  - Sept. 23 – VRC Liaisons Brown Bag: The 5 W's of the VRC
  - Nov. 7 - Military Appreciation Club: In Their Own Words Panel Discussion
  - Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Tribute & Flag Ceremony
  - Nov. 11 – Military Liaison Recognition Farewell & Retirement Ceremony
- **Shared Community Action Group (SCA).** JIDE Director Ervin is a member of the Macomb Shared Community Action group. Campus and community members meet at City Hall once a month to share information on events. (9.9.24, 10.14.24, & 11.18.24)
- **Take Back the Night.** Served as one of the presenters at the annual commemoration. Provided support for the event and promoted JIDE as a campus resource. (9.26.24)
- **University 100.** Provided a tour, presentation and Q&A on the JIDE office and its mission to the students of University 100. (9.30.24 and 10.3.24)
- **International Day of Peace Program.** Attended and supported a program that featured presentations by and conversations with students, faculty and staff. Provided support for the event and promoted JIDE as a campus resource. (10.1.24)
- **Faculty Senate.** A JIDE office presentation at the October meeting of the Faculty Senate. Provided an overview of the office, upcoming programming and encouraged attendance and support of DEI. (10.8.24)
- **BSA Homecoming Royal Court.** Served as one of the five judges for the Black Student Association's WIU Homecoming event to name the 2024 Mr. and Mrs. BSA. Supported student engagement and fun and promoted the JIDE office. (10.8.24)
- **SGA General Assembly.** A JIDE office presentation at a meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA). Provided an overview of the office, upcoming programming and encouraged attendance and support of DEI. (10.9.24)
- **Rocky Dog Scavenger Hunt.** The JIDE office served as one of the sites for the WIU Homecoming Rocky Dog Scavenger Hunt sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement (OSE). Supported student engagement and fun and promoted the JIDE office. (10.10.24)
- **Discover Western.** Hosted an information table to distribute information and participated in Q&A with students and families about the JIDE office, DEI resources and diversity at WIU as part of Admissions Office's Discover Western Preview Day. (Oct. 14, Oct. 26, & Nov. 11)

- **Student Conduct Hearing Board Training.** JIDE Director Ervin is a member of the Student Conduct Hearing Board and provides his DEI perspective to cases. He participated in the Student Conduct Board Training. (10.16.24)
- **NAACP Annual Freedom Banquet.** JIDE Director Ervin attended the annual McDonough County NAACP Freedom Banquet. Provided WIU and JIDE presence at the event and support to the WIU and Macomb communities work for justice and DEI. (10.20.24)
- **RRG&MS Open House.** Attended and supported the Open House hosted by the Department of Race, Religion, Gender and Multidisciplinary Studies that was organized in support of African American Studies, Religious Studies, and Women’s Studies. Promoted JIDE as a resource. (10.23.24)
- **SGA Informal Town Hall.** Served as one of the university representatives. Provided information on JIDE and participated in Q&A roundtable discussions with members of the general student population and members of SGA. (10.30.24)

### **Resources**

- **Tips for a Civil Conversation.** JIDE shared fliers and links to online sites with students, faculty and staff that offered tips and strategies to improve communication when facing difficult topics such as politics, race, gender, religion, etc.
  - National Conflict Resolution Center
    - 10 Tips for Navigating the Political Divide
    - Talking Across the Divide
  - Monica Guzman and Braver Angels
- **The JIDE webpage** <https://www.wiu.edu/jide/> includes the following additions in the *Events & News* section and the *Resources* section.
  - Tips on Ways to Use Email to Connect and Not Disconnect with Your Professor
  - Better Discourse Guide
  - Debunking Misconceptions About Muslims and Islam
  - A Campus Guide to Identify Antisemitism
  - Government Accounting Office Report on Black Girls and School Discipline
  - Stereotype Threat and Strategies to Address It
  - African American Officers in the Macomb Police Department in 1961
  - A thank you to Randall Faust, DMA, a WIU Emeritus Professor of Music who donated several books to the JIDE office
- **JIDE Workshops Online.** Workshops that were presented and recorded on the WIU campus have been placed on the JIDE website for review by those that missed the session or as a refresher for those that attended the original session.
  - Equity Tools & Resources for Faculty Engagement
  - Implicit Bias and Microaggressions
  - How to Resist Antisemitism

## Spring 2025

- **National Day of Racial Healing.** WIU will join universities and communities across the country with events and activities to promote awareness, understanding and healing as a path to a better community, society and world. (1.21.25)
- **Kinder Mondays: Your Brand Club.** JIDE will offer tips on building confidence and promoting success as part of the University Counseling Center program to acknowledge and promote kindness and encourage connection with campus resources like the JIDE Office. (1.27.25)

### Attendance

Date	Event	Attendance
September		
17	A Shady Conversation	10
30	University 100 class	11
October		
3	University 100 class	9
8	Snack & Chat: What is It Like to Be Me? - Jewish community	5
14	Unfiltered: Olson Hall	15
15	Snack & Chat: What is It Like to Be Me? - Islamic community	4
21	Unfiltered: Lincoln Hall	11
22	Snack & Chat: What is It Like to Be Me? - Caribbean community	3
14	Discover Western	30
26	Discover Western	30
28	Unfiltered: Thompson Hall	7
29	Snack & Chat: What is It Like to Be Me? - African community	3
November		
1	A Shady Conversation: Council of Academic Advisors	16
5	Election Night Watch Party	140
7	We Can Do Better: An Implicit Bias and Microaggressions Workshop	4
9	IPSA Conference: Election Outcomes and DEI in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	30
11	Discover Western	30
12	Snack & Chat: What is It Like to Be Me? - Asian & Indian community	0

### Surveys

#### A Shady Conversation I Sept. 17, 2024

Attendance: 10

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	10	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	10	0	0



**University 100** (Instructor E. Harrison) I Sept. 30, 2024

Attendance: 11

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	9	0	2
The advertised goal was accomplished	7	0	4

**University 100** (Instructor A. James) I Oct. 3, 2024

Attendance: 9

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	9	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	9	0	0

**Snack & Chat** (Jewish community) I Oct. 8, 2024

Attendance: 5

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	5	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	5	0	0

**Unfiltered** (Olson Hall) I Oct. 14, 2024

Attendance: 15

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	15	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	15	0	0

**Snack & Chat** (Islamic community) I Oct. 15, 2024

Attendance: 4

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	4	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	4	0	0

**Unfiltered** (Lincoln Hall) I Oct. 21, 2024

Attendance: 11

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	11	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	11	0	0

**Snack & Chat** (Caribbean community) | Oct. 22, 2024

Attendance: 3

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	3	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	3	0	0

**Unfiltered** (Thompson Hall) | Oct. 28, 2024

Attendance: 7

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	7	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	7	0	0

**Snack & Chat** (African community) | Oct. 29, 2024

Attendance: 3

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	3	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	3	0	0

**A Shady Conversation: Council of Academic Advisors** | Nov. 1, 2024

Attendance: 16

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	16	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	16	0	0

**Implicit Bias and Microaggressions Workshop** | Nov. 7, 2024

Attendance: / Surveys completed:

	Yes	No	No Reply
This event provided information that was helpful and that I will use.	4	0	0
The advertised goal was accomplished	4	0	0

**Kudos**

- **HEED Award**

On Oct. 3, 2024 Western Illinois University received the 2024 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *Insight Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. As a recipient of the annual HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion. This is the first year WIU has been named as a HEED Award recipient.

[https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=20230](https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=20230)

- **Provost's Awards for Academic Excellence**

The 2024 Provost's Award for Faculty Excellence in Multicultural Teaching was given to Haley Wikoff, an assistant professor in Counselor Education, College Student Personnel and in the Social Work Department.

[https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?utm\\_source=university\\_relations&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=enews\\_email&release\\_id=20303](https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?utm_source=university_relations&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=enews_email&release_id=20303)

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

### Update No. 10 – Government Relations

With the General Election concluded, The Illinois General Assembly was back in Springfield for the fall veto session. The General Assembly passed eight bills in total during the veto session. The majority of bills approved extend deadlines or make minor changes to existing law. None of the bills passed should have a major impact on Western Illinois University.

Traditionally, the veto session is a time for the General Assembly to review bills vetoed by the Governor over the course of the summer. However with no vetoes to consider, the focus turns to passing legislation that was left unfinished in the regular spring session. In some years, additional appropriations are passed as revenue data is updated and the state's financial picture becomes more clear. Unfortunately, an additional appropriation was not passed during the veto session. WIU worked with local legislators to draft a bill that would fund the Innovation Campus at the Quad Cities. With no larger appropriations bills put forward, the prospect of passing a stand alone bill would be bleak. We will continue to work to find an opportunity to achieve greater state support for WIU. That opportunity may present itself during the lame duck session of the 103rd General Assembly. A lame duck session is tentatively scheduled for January 2 through January 7 2025. Topics discussed during the session will likely focus on guarding against coming changes at the federal level, but will hopefully provide an opportunity for an additional request for funding.

While at this time it is hard to know what precise changes will be coming with a change in administration and in Congress in Washington, DC, it is clear that advocacy for Western Illinois University and all public universities will continue to be vitally important. On the campaign trail, President Elect Trump vowed to eliminate the Department of Education. Whether or not the elimination of the DOE happens is yet to be determined, but legislation was introduced by South Dakota Senator Mike Rounds to eliminate the department. Under the proposed legislation, items critical to WIU such Pell Grants would be shifted to other federal agencies. Even though millions were spent on state legislative races, no seats changed hands. The 104th Illinois General Assembly will have the same partisan makeup as the 103rd, 40 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the Senate and 78 Democrats and 40 Republicans in the House. The 104th General Assembly will be sworn in at noon on January 8.

Discussions on a new funding model for Illinois public universities continue with several meetings happening throughout the fall in both Chicago and Springfield. While there are still areas to be discussed that could challenge final agreement, the group of legislators, advocates and university leadership continues to move forward. It is unlikely this legislation will be heard in the lame duck session, but it will be reintroduced as a new bill in the 104th General Assembly. WIU continues to be an active participant in the negotiations as we seek to put our institution and all higher education institutions across the State of Illinois on a more adequate and equitable funding path.

**Report submitted by: Zach Messersmith**

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Report No. 24.12/1 -- Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending  
September 30, 2024

<b>All Funds</b>						
	<b>FY2025 Budget</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>FY2024 Budget</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Revenue</b>						
State Appropriations	\$ 56,826,500	\$ 13,934,826	24.5%	\$ 55,712,200	\$ 15,335,689	27.5%
Assessed Tuition	43,000,000	24,649,305	57.3%	46,414,600	27,010,728	58.2%
Assessed Room and Board	18,641,280	9,724,918	52.2%	20,014,614	11,112,775	55.5%
Sales	2,547,800	1,110,701	43.6%	3,563,700	1,538,420	43.2%
Assessed Student Fees	4,315,934	2,184,768	50.6%	4,658,254	2,540,300	54.5%
Other	61,536,786	23,043,423	37.4%	59,968,613	22,745,457	37.9%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$186,868,300</b>	<b>\$ 74,647,941</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>\$190,331,981</b>	<b>\$ 80,283,369</b>	<b>42.2%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Personnel Services	\$ 98,100,000	\$ 17,879,132	18.2%	\$104,000,000	\$ 18,276,320	17.6%
Medicare	2,360,000	1,226,514	52.0%	1,970,000	\$ 1,143,243	58.0%
Commodities	2,825,000	603,557	21.4%	3,560,000	\$ 800,339	22.5%
Operation of Automotive Equip	400,000	66,078	16.5%	620,000	\$ 81,055	13.1%
Travel	515,000	76,170	14.8%	695,000	\$ 86,918	12.5%
Contractual Services	41,600,000	9,754,837	23.4%	41,500,000	\$ 10,778,440	26.0%
Permanent Improvements	630,000	6,400	1.0%	430,000	\$ 585,677	136.2%
Equipment	3,220,200	1,245,091	38.7%	4,300,000	\$ 776,377	18.1%
Telecommunication Services	300,850	43,454	14.4%	325,000	\$ 98,862	30.4%
Awards/Grants & Matching Funds	33,900,000	14,070,763	41.5%	38,600,000	\$ 17,734,082	45.9%
CMS Health Insurance	3,294,800	1,382,704	42.0%	3,044,800	\$ 2,271,521	74.6%
Other	13,754,150	4,102,028	29.8%	10,950,000	\$ 3,372,349	30.8%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$200,900,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,456,728</b>	<b>25.1%</b>	<b>\$209,994,800</b>	<b>\$ 56,005,181</b>	<b>26.7%</b>

The Board of Trustees approved the Western Illinois University Fiscal Year 2025 All Funds Budget by source of funds and estimated object of expenditure on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (see Western Illinois University Board of Trustees Resolution No. 24.9/1). Per Board approval, Western Illinois University is authorized to spend up to \$200.9 million during Fiscal Year 2025, and the President is authorized to make technical adjustments in budgets if necessary.

Following the approval of institutional spending plans, the Western Illinois Board of Trustees shall receive quarterly revenue and expenditure reports to review the University's financial status and compliance with institutional spending plans.

The table above outlines the approved All Funds Budget for the current year, along with year-to-date revenue and expense data. Fiscal Year 2024 data is also provided for comparative purposes. Revenue projections are based on factors including enrollment, retention rates, occupancy numbers, and other historical data. The budgeted expenditures are mainly comprised of personnel services, contractual services, and financial aid obligations.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Report No. 24.12/2 -- Purchases of \$100,000 - \$499,999.99

## Purchases of \$100,000 - \$249,999

Vendor	Type of Purchase	Annual Amount (unless otherwise noted)	Number of Bids
University of Illinois Sponsored Programs; Urbana, IL	Subaward to provide technical assistance to prospective applicants and awardees of the Illinois Grocery Initiative.	\$102,000	Exempt (Grant)
University of Illinois Sponsored Programs; Urbana, IL	Subaward for study/grocery access survey for the Illinois Grocery Initiative.	\$102,300	Exempt (Grant)
Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University-SIU School of Medicine; Springfield, IL	Continuous order for Dr. Wright to provide psychiatric services for Beu Health Center through September 2025.	\$170,560	Intergov't Agreement
EAB Global Inc; Washington, DC	Strategic advisory services (year 2 of a 3-year agreement) IPHEC contract – exempt from BOT approval	\$200,000	Sole Source (IPHEC2222)

Purchases of \$250,000 - \$499,999  
Receiving Presidential Approval

Carahsoft Technology Corporation; Reston, VA	Change order to FY25 Ellucian Colleague ERP software and services for additional professional service hours for implementation extension. IPHEC contract – exempt from BOT approval. Funded by COPS.	\$307,744.14	IPHEC
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# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Report No. 24.12/3 -- Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 1st Quarter

**Executive Summary:**

Report on externally-sponsored grants and contracts and income-producing contracts received by the University provided to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis.

**Quarter to Date**

Three Months Ended September 30	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Awards > \$50,000	\$11,412,810 (18)	\$5,081,242 (10)	\$5,546,069 (15)
Total Awards, (regardless of value)	\$11,620,450 (30)	\$5,197,342 (18)	\$5,773,225 (27)

**Fiscal Year to Date**

Three Months Ended September 30	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY23</u>
Awards > \$50,000	\$11,412,810 (18)	\$5,081,242 (10)	\$5,546,069 (15)
Total Awards, (regardless of value)	\$11,620,450 (30)	\$5,197,342 (18)	\$5,773,225 (27)

### Summary of Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts

<u>Quarterly Totals</u>		<u>Annual Totals</u>	
<u>Quarters</u>		FY24	\$20,580,977 (87)
1st	\$11,620,450 (30)	FY23	\$18,449,768 (88)
2 <sup>nd</sup>		FY22	\$38,562,123 (114)
3 <sup>rd</sup>		FY21	\$31,169,325 (121)
4 <sup>th</sup>		FY20	\$28,516,125 (117)
Total	\$11,620,450 (30)		



## Selected Sponsored Projects Funded by External Agencies in the 1st Quarter FY2025

### Grants and Contracts

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$80,155  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Community College Board  
Date Received: July 31, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Paul Sweet  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the maintenance and support of the Illinois Constitution System and Alternative Methods of Credentialing (AMOC) program within the i-Pathways system.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$88,551  
Grantor/Contractor: National Collegiate Athletic Association  
Date Received: September 3, 2024  
Term: August 14, 2024 through August 14, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Jeremy Robinett  
Purpose: Student Support. The purpose of this project is to address critical issues affecting student-athlete success and support on campus.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$101,955  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois State University  
Date Received: September 20, 2024  
Term: September 15, 2020 through August 31, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Winthrop Phippen  
Purpose: Research. The purpose of this project is to conduct field evaluations of pennycress for agronomic traits.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$103,000  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Date Received: July 31, 2024  
Term: April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Theresa Ebeler  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the operations of the Illinois APEX Accelerator program services.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$113,257  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Emergency Management Agency  
Date Received: August 1, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the Safe2Help FY25 program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$114,535  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Elevating Special Educators Network  
Date Received: July 18, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Hollie Mason/Kristin Wiseley  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support individuals seeking careers in special education at WIU.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$160,000  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Date Received: September 13, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Gisele Hamm  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs MAPPING the Future of Your Community Project.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$178,279  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Board of Higher Education  
Date Received: September 17, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Cara Cerullo  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the Mental Health Early Action on Campus program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$205,667  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services  
Date Received: September 30, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Richard Mathers/Michael Maher  
Purpose: Research. The purpose of this project is to support test construction, scoring, test evaluations, and trainer/course evaluations for DCFS in FY25.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$276,000  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Human Services  
Date Received: September 3, 2024  
Term: August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Karen Mauldin-Curtis  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the Peace Corps Fellows/AmeriCorps Program for Western Illinois University in FY25.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$341,853  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Date Received: August 31, 2024  
Term: March 15, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Sean Park  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to upgrade grocery stores in food deserts.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$387,413  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity  
Date Received: August 31, 2024  
Term: March 15, 2024 through December 31, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Sean Park  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to complete a food insecurity study.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$500,000  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Human Services  
Date Received: August 12, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Amy Betz  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to maintain an Early Intervention Credentialing program to support a system of credentialing and enrollment for EI Providers.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$1,076,350  
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois State Board of Education  
Date Received: July 19, 2024  
Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
Director/Fiscal Agent: Connie Shugart/Lindsay Meeker  
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to improve special education services in Illinois.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$1,800,000  
 Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board  
 Date Received: July 1, 2024  
 Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
 Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz  
 Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to develop, deliver, and evaluate training designed for supervisory and command personnel in the field of law enforcement.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$1,880,600  
 Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board  
 Date Received: July 31, 2024  
 Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
 Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz  
 Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to develop, deliver, and evaluate training designed for supervisory and command personnel in the field of law enforcement.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$1,945,142  
 Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Dept. of Transportation Services  
 Date Received: August 12, 2024  
 Term: September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2027  
 Director/Fiscal Agent: David Patton  
 Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to administer the Illinois Department of Transportation's Rural Transit Assistance Program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$2,060,053  
 Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board  
 Date Received: July 31, 2024  
 Term: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025  
 Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz  
 Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to develop, deliver, and evaluate training designed for supervisory and command personnel in the field of law enforcement.

**Additional Information**

Number of First or Second-time Proposals and Awards

First Quarter:	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Proposal</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Award</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Award</u>
	2	0	0	2
Fiscal Year to Date:	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Proposal</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Proposal</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Award</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Award</u>
	2	0	0	2

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

### Report No. 24.12/4 -- Undergraduate Admissions and Student Success

#### **Executive Summary**

The Division of Student Success has focused on welcoming and transitioning students to campus since the last Board of Trustees meeting. The following information highlights some of the accomplishments and focuses of the team throughout the fall 2024 semester.

#### **Access and Support**

##### New Student and Family Programs (NSFP)

- NSFP implemented National Transfer Student Week on October 20 - 25th. Events ranged from career focus development, social gatherings, and the reimplementation of Tau Sigma, the Transfer Student Honor Society.
- To celebrate WIU's non-traditional and first-generation students, NSFP offered Non-Traditional and First-Generation Student Week from November 3rd through 8th.
- Both full-time staff members in NSFP have continued to assist undergraduate admissions this fall to ensure that recruitment fairs and events have support.

##### Office of Public Safety (OPS)

- The VirTra 300 simulator is installed, and the Office of Public Safety team has been learning from the equipment. A future open house will be scheduled to promote campus and community awareness.
- The Office of Public Safety completed reaccreditation with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police ILEAP program. Appreciation to Accreditation Manager Captain Curtis Billbrey and assistance from Officers Tim Harting and Melody Piper in ensuring this effort.
- OPS continues to utilize and leverage funding from the Recruitment and Retention Grant to enhance our overall operation and ensure the team has the resources needed while balancing budget priorities.

##### RockyBot / EdSights

- 95% of students texted remain opted-in to receive Rocky's outreach and messages.
- Rocky has received over 27,000 texts from students since launch.
- Since the beginning of the fall semester, Rocky has launched six retention campaigns, provided direct resources and support to 371 students, and completed 17 interventions that connected groups of students to targeted resources.
- Intervention Highlights:
  - Rocky flagged 41 students struggling with an issue that may make it hard for them to stay in school.
  - Supported 108 students who are struggling with feeling like they belong at WIU.
  - Identified 310 students who are facing financial challenges.

## Undergraduate Admissions

- With the support and partnership of Alumni Programs, Undergraduate Admissions offered new local and regional opportunities for prospective students to connect with Western Illinois University.
- The Undergraduate Admissions team completed three major open house programs, Discover Western, this semester.
- The team collaborated with University Marketing to create an online, interactive campus map with images and information about the campus.
- Launched a new effort to engage faculty and staff in recruiting by allowing them to refer a student to apply with a free application waiver code.
- Produced and launched a series of social media posts highlighting one academic program at a time called Major Mondays.
- Conceived and guided three new admissions policies through the shared governance process related to dual enrollment, transfers, and adult students.

## Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

- For an astounding 14 consecutive years, Western Illinois University has been honored as a “Best for Vets College” by Military Times magazine. In the recently published 2024 rankings, With more than 300 schools in the lineup, Western ranked 69th overall, 55th in Public, and 46th in Primarily In-Person Institutions.
- In Illinois, Western Illinois University has an impressive standing as the 2nd highest of the Best for Vets institutions and ranked 5th among the institutions in the Midwest.
- The VRC hosted the Military Tribute Ceremony on Monday, November 11th, 2024, to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students, faculty, and staff.

## Connection and Engagement

### Multicultural Center (MCC)

- The first MCC Mixer of the semester was held on October 30th. It featured Halloween-themed games and activities, and over 75 students attended.
- In collaboration with the Department of Political Science, the MCC hosted an Election Night Watch Party on November 5th with over 65 students, faculty, and staff in attendance.
- The LGBT\*QA Resource Center kicked off QueerVember with Camp Out on November 2nd and 3rd and Equality Ball on November 7th. Several events are scheduled, including Drag Show Bingo on November 14th and Trans\* Day of Remembrance on November 20th.
- Casa Latina hosted “Dia de los Muertos,” a celebration of the Day of the Dead with 100 attendees.

### University Union

- The Union Hotel continues to perform and stand out as a competitive option to stay when visiting WIU or the Macomb community. The hotel has sold most of the weekends and special program dates of the Fall Semester, including all of the signature weekends (Homecoming, Family Day, Discover Western programs, football weekends, etc.).
- The Learning is ForEver (LIFE) program has thrived since transitioning to Scheduling and Event Services. The second Fall Fling since 2020 was held this October to welcome and show appreciation for the LIFE participants, instructors, and curriculum committee members for the Spring and Fall Semesters of 2024. For the Fall 2024 semester, 41 courses were offered, and 637 participants participated.
- Sponsored Credit courses are a viable option for continuing education for the community and neighboring communities. There were 9 sponsored credit courses with 28 registrations for the Fall 2024 semester.

- University Union Event Information for the Fall 2024 semester:
  - Total Events/Meetings in the Union: 1,814
    - *(Total Attendance: 63,184)*
  - 851 student organization events
    - *(Total Attendance: 16,922)*
  - 743 Administrative Events
    - *(Total Attendance: 24,119)*
  - 149 Academic Events
    - *(Total Attendance: 17,743)*
  - 71 off-campus events
    - *(Total Attendance: 4,400)*
  - 137 Concourse Tables
  - 37 Outdoor Tables
  - 98 Table Tents

#### Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)

- Student Rights and Responsibilities Graduate Assistant Diamond Crawford collaborated with the University Technology-Online Teaching and Learning team to create two new educational sanctions on Conflict Resolution and De-escalation Coaching. These new sanctions require students to complete readings, pass a quiz with a minimum score of 90%, and then communicate how the information learned will assist them with future incidents and what they could have done differently in prior incidents. These sanctions have already been implemented and will be used by the Student Rights and Responsibilities team and University Housing and Dining Services.
- The SRR office continues to increase campus visibility by partnering with departments and instructors across campus. SRR presented to three University 100 classes about the basics of our office. Additionally, we interacted with students at the Think B4 U Drink event, educating students on the consequences of alcohol consumption. Furthermore, office staff continue volunteering to assist with events like Discover Western, Homecoming, student engagement activities, and more.

#### University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS)

- In conjunction with the WIU Food Pantry, UHDS is proud to partner with Swipe Out Hunger, a national nonprofit organization powering the movement to end college student hunger. Swipe Out Hunger collaborates with colleges, legislators, and the greater community to address student food insecurity by championing hunger solutions. Students can donate their extra meal plan dollars to a “bank” to allow other students who have run out of meal plan dollars to utilize their donated amount. A dedicated foundation account was also established with assistance from Sodexo Campus Services, who provided the first \$2,500.
- Students and advisors attended the Great Lakes Association of College and University Residence Halls conference in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
- Graduate Students and staff are attending the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers conference in Fort Wayne, IN. Brooke McDaniels, Complex Director, received a scholarship to attend.
- Applications are open for 2025-26 Resident Assistants, Desk Assistants, and Summer Resident Assistants. UHDS employs over 100 students for these positions.

## Office of Student Engagement (OSE)

- OSE has 713 events posted in Leatherneck Link as of 11/11/2024.
- Students have “swiped” into events 8,269 times as of 11/11/2024.
- The 6th Annual Family Day BBQ had 11 teams participate in the competition, selling over 2,500 tasting tickets and 400 football tickets.
- The fall 2024 semester has seen 115 new Fraternity & Sorority Life members.
- Alpha Gamma Rho raised over \$30,000 at their Annual Smokin Hog Event.
- Homecoming Parade saw its largest number of participants since COVID, with over 115 entries.
- SGA held a successful Informal Town Hall event with over 50 students and 25 campus administrators.
- In Volunteer Link, 569 students posted hours, and 43 agencies are using the system, with 718.15 hours posted. This equates to \$18,044.26 saved by the agencies by hosting student volunteers.

## Golf Course

- Since July 1st, we have welcomed 1,333 complimentary student rounds of golf as compared to 807 last year during the same time frame.
- The golf course has completed two beautification projects to cart paths and is planting 5 memorial trees this fall.

## Mascot Program

- The 2025 Colonel Rock Calendar was unveiled in November. This is the annual fundraiser for the Live Mascot Program. Special thanks to the WIU Foundation for covering this year’s printing costs, University Marketing and Communications, and Photography & Design Production for the design, photos, etc.

## Health and Wellness

### Beu Health Center

- Beu Health Center served 1175 students in September and 1260 students in October.
- Six students from the School of Nursing finished their clinical rotations at Beu Health Center for the semester. Students assist with patient care, including flu shots.
- The School of Nursing and Beu Health Center have partnered to provide flu shots to 201 students to date, and one more clinic has been scheduled.
- Beu staff continue to work with students and provide needed immunizations to ensure the University’s compliance with the College Student Immunization Act.

### Student Development and Success Center (SDSC)

- As of 11/6/24, the SDSC has received 440 Leatherneck Care Referrals from Students, Staff, Faculty, Community Members, and Family Members. In addition to the Leatherneck care referral, the SDSC receives referrals via phone, email, walk-ins, and from other offices bringing students to the SDSC. The SDSC has had a total of 939 Care Cases. Care cases range from students who have suffered injuries, deaths in the family, or mental health concerns. 47% of all Care Cases this semester have been mental health-related.
- The team has communicated with over 1500 students participating in Rocky's Wellness Challenge and offered services to students EdSights identified as needing mental, physical, financial, or general wellness resources and assistance.
- The SDSC has completed 12 educational events for health education this semester. These events have focused on education regarding safe sex practices, safe alcohol consumption, and information on other drugs. There have been approximately 150 students who have attended these events.



- SDSC has completed the 2024 Biennial Review to remain in compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Campuses Act.

#### Campus Recreation

- A reunification drill was held on Friday, Oct 4. The drill was hosted by WIU in conjunction with Macomb Schools and involved 24 school districts and several law enforcement and emergency management agencies from the West Central IL region. Student Rec Center and Q Lot served as this drill's registration site, parent waiting area, and primary reunification point.
- Campus Rec hosted the indoor sports competitions for the annual Diwali celebration. Participants played badminton, volleyball, and table tennis in a tournament as part of the Indian celebration.
- Intramural Sports participation: Flag Football - 9 teams, 98 participants and Indoor Volleyball - 13 teams, 71 participants
- The Fallen Soldiers 5K was held on Saturday, November 2nd, with more than 400 racers and 50 volunteers. The event went smoothly, and there was significant participation and volunteerism.

#### University Counseling Center (UCC)

- Welltrack HelpNow is accessible 24/7 by calling the University Counseling Center. The intent is to offer additional crisis support during the day. Welltrack Flexible Credits contract is in process with the intent to provide supplemental counseling services from external providers at no cost to students.
- The UCC has been focused on suicide prevention initiatives this semester. 310 students have completed MindWise: SOS for Higher Education (Students) suicide prevention training. Access is available to all freshmen, student-workers, and graduate assistants via WesternOnline. This is a significant increase from last year's participation. MindWise" SOS for Higher Education (Faculty/Staff) will be rolled out in the Spring 2025 semester. Approximately 120 student-athletes participated in the VitalCog suicide prevention training program provided by 10 "Peer Navigators" trained by Cara Cerullo. This is an extension of the NCAA grant from the previous year. Additionally, 70-plus individuals have been trained in Mental Health First Aid since August.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Report No. 24.12/5 -- Academic Affairs Report

## College of Arts and Sciences

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Emily Richardson**, double major in Mathematics and Geographic Information Systems, was selected as the College of Arts and Sciences' College Scholar for Fall 2024.
- Western Illinois University's **Chemistry program** was named the best in the nation for women in STEM by Washington Monthly.  
<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2024/08/25/best-and-worst-colleges-for-women-in-stem/>
- **Chad Sperry**, Director of the GIS Center, won the Illinois GIS Association's (ILSGISA) Hilton Distinguished Collaboration Award, which is "presented to an individual who has provided extraordinary service to the GIS community in the advancement of coordination between GIS professionals. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of cooperation within our community and with the people we serve." **Kale Campagna** (undergraduate student) won the ILGISA Outstanding Student Award.
- **Dr. Kishor T. Kapale** and **Mrs. Aparna Kapale**, in collaboration with Macomb Middle School teachers Mr. Rebecca Melvin, and Mrs. Julie Stufflebeam and WIU retired mathematics education professor Dr. James Olson, are coaching the Middle-School Mathematics Olympiad Team for the new 2024-2025 season.
- WIU Political Science professors **Keith Boeckelman**, **Julia Albarracin**, and **Greg Baldi** welcomed Political Science Department graduates Kyle Colson, Samuel Correa, Nashuba Hudson, and Ryan Homer back to campus for the Pre-law Symposium.
- **Dr. Julia Albarracin** was invited to be a member of Governor Pritzker's Racial Equity Roundtable on Latino/a/e Homelessness. The central goal of this roundtable is to allow the State of Illinois to better understand the unique challenges Latine Illinoisans face in accessing stable housing and shift narratives around homelessness away from personal responsibility and towards structural root causes.

- The **Religious Studies Program** hosted the 37th annual Mary Olive Woods Lecture on September 26, 2024. Supported by the Mary Olive Woods Trust, the MOW lecture brings prestigious scholars in the fields of religious studies and philosophy to Western Illinois University each year. Dr. Valerie Cooper of Duke Divinity School, spoke on the topic, "Segregated Sundays: How Racially Segregated Worship Feeds Political Divisions."

## DEPARTMENTS

### Biology:

- On September 21, 2024 Western Illinois University Department of Biological Sciences Professor Brian D. Peer has been inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS is the largest multidisciplinary scientific organization in the world and is the publisher of the journal Science. Election as a Fellow in the AAAS is among the highest honors in the scientific community and is awarded to members whose "efforts on behalf of the advancement of science, or its applications, are scientifically or socially distinguished." This honor recognizes Dr. Peer for "excellence in the study of avian brood parasitism, and in mentoring student research."

### Chemistry:

- Song, L.G., Leblanc, L., Jovanovich, E., Al-Bataineh, A.M., Fabien, K.J.: A rapid and accurate liquid chromatographic method for hemp compliance testing. *Forensic Chemistry*. 40, 11 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forc.2024.100592>. (Impact Factor 2.6)
- Song, L., Provis, J., Al-Bataineh, A.M., Fabien, K.J., Kotler, M.: Development of a liquid chromatographic method with a different selectivity for the quantification of eighteen phytocannabinoids in hemp *Talanta Open*. 10, (2024), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.talo.2024.100336>. (Impact Factor 4.1)
- Meyer, G., Adisa, M., Dodson, Z., Adejumo, E., Jovanovich, E., Song, L.G.: A liquid chromatography electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry method for quantification of up to eighteen cannabinoids in hemp-derived products. *J. Pharm. Biomed. Anal.* 238, 10 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpba.2023.115847>. (Impact Factor 3.1)
- Song, L.G., Meyer, G., Adejumo, E., Jovanovich, E., LeBlanc, L., Provis, J.: Potency testing of up to sixteen cannabinoids in hemp-infused edibles using liquid chromatography diode array detector with optional confirmation of identity by electrospray ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry. *Food Chemistry*. 417, 9 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2023.135819>. (Impact Factor 8.5)
- Emily Jovanovich, a recent graduate of the Department of Chemistry from the Integrated B.S. Forensic Chemistry and Master's Degree Program, has been employed by the Arkansas' Department of Public Safety in their seized drug unit.

- Lindsey LeBlanc, a recent graduate of the Department of Chemistry from the Integrated B.S. Forensic Chemistry and Master's Degree Program, has been employed by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.
- Jake Provis, a current graduate student of the Department of Chemistry from the Integrated B.S. Forensic Chemistry and Master's Degree Program to graduate December 2024, has been employed by P&G Iowa City Oral Care.

The employment of these students by government and leading companies demonstrate the competitiveness of the B.S. Forensic Chemistry and the Master's Degree Program in the Department of Chemistry at the national level.

It is worth to mention that all three students have published peer-reviewed journal articles with their mentor, i.e., Dr. Ligu Song, who is also the Forensic Program Director.

- Matt McConnell and TK Vinod submitted an article entitled "Development of a Knoevenagel Condensation Experiment with Green Chemistry and <sup>1</sup>H NMR Analysis Learning Objectives" to Journal of Chemical Education in July. The manuscript was accepted pending reviewer corrections.
- Provis\*, J., Meyer\*, G., Adejumo\*, E., Jovanovich\*, E., LeBlanc\*, L., Song, L., Development of a validated UHPLC-DAD method with optional ESI/TOFMS detection for rapid quantification of up to sixteen cannabinoids in hemp infused edibles. NIJ's 2024 National Research Conference. 2024.
- Al-Bataineh\*, A. M., LeBlanc\*, L., Jovanovich\*, E., Fabien\*, K. J., Song, L., A rapid and accurate liquid chromatography ultraviolet detection method for hemp compliance testing NIJ's 2024 National Research Conference. 2024.
- Jacob Provis, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)'s National Research Conference Travelling Scholarship to cover registration, airfare, lodging, per diem, and other reasonable expenses: Development of a validated UHPLC-DAD method with optional ESI/TOFMS detection for rapid quantification of up to sixteen cannabinoids in hemp infused edibles (September, 2024).
- The flyer of "Hands-on Laboratory Activities led by Chemistry Professors" was sent out to the nearby high schools within 100 miles away from Macomb. So far, several replies from the high school science teachers have been received. A visit to the Chemistry Department by Spoon River Valley High School students (9 students plus their science teacher) is planned for November 15.
- Dr. Garima Mishra submitted a review article to Future Medicinal Chemistry, Taylor & Francis at the start of the August Month. It is under revision now with reviewers comments. She served as second author for this review article. Manuscript ID FMC-2024-0294 entitled "Biological Activity Of Organoselenium Compounds Beyond Antioxidants", submitted to Future Medicinal Chemistry Authors: Ritu Mamgain \*, Garima Mishra #, Saumya Kritia \* and

Fateh V. Singh\*

\* Chemistry Division, School of Advanced Sciences (SAS), Vellore Institute of Technology - Chennai, Vandalur-Kelambakkam Road, Chennai -600127, Tamil Nadu, India; Email: [fatehveer.singh@vit.ac.in](mailto:fatehveer.singh@vit.ac.in) # Department of Chemistry, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities, Moline, IL, USA

- Western Illinois University's chemistry program was named the best in the nation for women in STEM by Washington Monthly.  
<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2024/08/25/best-and-worst-colleges-for-women-in-stem/>

#### **EAGIS:**

- Melim, L.A., Hunter, J. and Minton, M., 2024, Torosites: A new microbially mediated speleothem from Sistema Los Toros, Nuevo León, Mexico, *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*, v. 86, p. 1-12, <https://doi.org/10.4311/2022ES0115>.
- Chad Sperry and Peter Schoenfield were part of a panel presentation on "NG911 and 3D Indoor School Mapping - Latest Developments"
- Jongnam Choi presented at Demark High School, Alpharetta, GA. The presentation title is Introduction to Korea and The National Atlas of Korea
- Chad Sperry won the Hilton Distinguished Collaboration Award. From the ILGISA website: "The Hilton Distinguished Collaboration Award is presented to an individual who has provided extraordinary service to the GIS community in the advancement of coordination between GIS professionals. The Honors committee may select a recipient for the Hilton Distinguished Collaboration Award, as and when they deem appropriate. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of cooperation within our community and with the people we serve."
- Kale Campagna (undergraduate student) won the ILGISA Outstanding Student Award. Here is the description of the award from ILGISA's website: "The ILGISA Outstanding Student Award is presented to an undergraduate student of any major who has included GIS in their course of study, and has demonstrated exemplary proficiency and understanding of GIS, potential contribution to the GIS Community, and general success in school."
- Emma LeMaster (graduate student) presented on "Exploring Iceland's Trails: A Journey through Data and Maps".
- Redina Finch and two meteorology students (Claire DeWalt and Lily Bennett) presented Weather in Illinois to approximately 250 fifth grade students for Conservation Day on September 20.
- Leslie Melim: September 4, 2024: Cave Pearl Stories. Zoom presentation for the Baltimore Grotto Meeting, National Speleological Society.
- Samuel Thompson and Jongnam Choi participated in Kewanee High School College and Career Fair on September 18, a whole day event.

**English:**

- English hosted Jennifer Burek Pierce, Professor for the Library of University of Iowa, for the Magliocco Lecture. Jennifer met informally with faculty and students for a reception in late afternoon and then delivered a lecture for all in the Garden Lounge of the Malpass Library.
- The Book was Better and Sigma Tau Delta (both student groups) co-hosted a "Drop Everything and Read" event on Oct 11th. An Alum, Marcy Bialeschki '88, also was present and read from her bestselling novels. She writes thriller-romance novels.
- EGO hosted Spooky Board games on Oct 18th.
- Sigma Tau Delta hosted Haunted Simpkins Night on Oct. 25th.
- Alumnus Marcy Bialeschki '88 visited and read from some of her novels.
- Students Nick Rush and Ajayla Ries will have their fiction writings published in literary magazines.
- English hosted Melissa Febos, visiting writer for the LOLA series, on Sept 11th. Febos met with students for lunch, hosted a craft talk, gave a reading of one of her memoirs (Girlhood), and had dinner with faculty.
- English co-hosted (with the Library) a "Poetry Garden Party" on Friday, Sept 20th in the garden lounge of Malpass Library.
- The University Writing Center hosted "Write Night" again—free pizza and lots of opportunities to get help with writing—on Sept 26th.
- With the work of Barb Lawhorn, the English Department hosted its second "Pizza, Pop, Poetry, and Prose" event as a welcome back and "here we go" event for faculty and students. 8 faculty and 36 students attended and enjoyed both examples of prose and poetry while having pop and pizza on Friday, August 30th.
- Also, Anthony Vaughn, instructor in the English Department, has put Doug Freed in contact with a relative of Anthony's in the Chicago area for a recruiting visit.

**FLL:**

- Guada Cabedo-Timmons: Paper title: "El síndrome de Peter Pan en novelas de escritoras españolas de la posguerra como rechazo a una sociedad patriarcal y androcéntrica." Conference name: "Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos" Location: San Sebastian, Spain. June 26-28, 2024
- Munia Cabal-Jimenez- September: External Reviewer of Promotion Portfolio for Tenure. Department of World Languages and Cultures/Institute for European Studies. Indiana University-East.

- Munia Cabal-Jimenez- September: Became a member of MATI. Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters.

### History:

- Febe Pamonag - Oct. 8, 2024: Nineteen high school students and two teachers from Denmark visited the Hist 116/World History class. The students participated in a group activity -- analysis of primary sources.
- Tim Roberts - October 1 Participated in a McDonough County League of Women's Voters political candidate forum. (community service)
  - October 3 Taught a WIU LIFE class, "Background on the play by Tim Roberts, "When Abraham Lincoln Visited Macomb: Devising the Freeport Question," Macomb Arts Center.
  - October 5 Participated in an historical play, "When Abraham Lincoln Visited Macomb: Devising the Freeport Question," Macomb Arts Center. Media coverage at [https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=20212](https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=20212). (community service)
  - October 18-19 Hosted a World War II Living History Days event at Macomb's Veterans Park and on campus. 400 K-12 students participated. Co-sponsored with the Macomb Parks District.
- Media coverage at <https://www.tspr.org/tspr-local-news/2024-10-14/world-war-ii-live-history-exhibit-in-macomb>. (recruiting, community service)
  - October 25 With the School of Education, co-organized Western's Future Teachers Day, hosting 200 high school students interested in becoming K-12 teachers. Media coverage at [https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release\\_id=20241](https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=20241). (recruiting)
  - October 30 Represented faculty at WIU Student Government Association's campus Town Hall meeting, meeting with students to learn about campus issues and concerns. (retention)
- Ute Chamberlin – Future Teacher’s Day with the School of Education & Tim Roberts.
- Emma Styx, Franken Wauer, Nolan Rinearson, Ellienna Walden, and Corey Knobbe acted as history student ambassadors for Discover Western and the Future Teachers Day events.
- Associated Students of History activities in October:
  - 10/10 Ancient Food Demonstration and Tasting
  - 10/24 History of Slang
  - 10/31 Expressionist German Horror Movie from 1922: Showing and Discussion.
- History major Winter Hurst-Leadicker and History professor Tim Roberts spoke on WIU's September 17, 2024 Constitution Day panel, "The Electoral College." They accompanied the event's keynote speaker, Illinois State Senator Elgie Sims. To hear Sen. Sims' remarks on the Electoral College, start watching the WIU-TV broadcast at 38 minutes. Winter's remarks start at 65 minutes. Prof. Roberts' remarks start at 70 minutes. An interesting 30-minute Q&A developed after Roberts' presentation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFWtQ2RZgko>

- Tim Roberts published a book chapter, "The French Influence on American Counterinsurgency Warfare," in *Prehistories of the War on Terror: A Critical Genealogy*, ed. Yumi Lee and Karen Miller (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press): 19-39.
- Literature was sent to 50 high schools and 10 4-year colleges in the region to recruit history majors and the history graduate program, and to invite teachers and students to our October 19 World War II campus living history exhibit.
- Associated Students of History \_September 12, 2024 – Students learned about the History of Pizza with much discussion following.
- Associated Students of History \_ September 19, 2024. Dr. Chamberlin discussed with the ASH members her summer adventure! Quite riveting presentation by Dr. Chamberlin of her experience of Israel during a highly tense moment in its reaction to the Hamas attack, on-going occupation of the West Bank and the changing legacy of the Holocaust.
- Associated Students of History \_ September 26, 2024 – Tour of Sherman Hall to learn the history of the building and WIU.
- Sept 9 the department initiated an addition to our MA grad program by offering a new minor field in Museum Studies. To fulfill it, interested students will take courses offered by WIU's Museum Studies program. The projected start for this is fall 2025.
- Febe Pamonag presented a peer-reviewed paper at an international conference held in Japan. Here are the details: "Gender, Food, and Allied Civilian Female Internees in the Philippines during World War II," International Federation for Research in Women's History (IFRWH) conference, Aug. 9. 2024, Tsuda University, Tokyo, Japan
- Ute Chamberlin has successfully completed an educational seminar in Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Israel. The Alan Cornell US Campus Faculty Seminar took place from 17-27 June 2024 and included 90 study hours.
- Katelyn Smith is doing a summer internship at the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). What's conservation got to do with history? Keep reading....  
It's "Missouri's Mushrooms," which now hangs in a central hallway in MDC's Jefferson City headquarters. This exhibit features ten paintings of mushrooms found in Missouri, all painted by the artist Donna Pasley in the early 1980s. My developing this exhibit started a wee bit like where Raiders of the Lost Ark stops - These pieces of art had been forgotten about among the MDC's current staff. I discovered that these works were completed to illustrate an article, "Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms," published in the March 1983 issue of the Missouri Conservationist.  
Curating the exhibit taught me about creating informational signage. I made a general explanation of the gallery's premises and history, and individual signs about each species of mushroom represented. For this I worked with a mycologist. It was a great experience to have a fungi specialist as a resource.  
Now that my gallery is an official Missouri Department of Conservation exhibit, it may be requested for loan and travel to any interested nature centers or galleries. For now, this



exhibit remains in a prominent place, where MDC employees and many others are going to be able to appreciate this artwork that was once lost in both time and our archives.

- Prof Tim Roberts accompanied one of our new history majors, Cade Hancock, of Orion, IL, on a campus selfie scavenger hunt during new student orientation. They made their way to the third floor of Sherman Hall, where a post was made on Facebook showing one of the building's four Illinois murals. This one shows Fort Dearborn, erected 1803 which is now Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive. Welcome Cade and other new Leatherneck historians!
- The department of history hosted a well-attended welcome back party in the quad behind Morgan Hall.

### **IES / ES PhD:**

- The WIU Environmental Science Program continued to host the Clean River Advisory Council (C-RAC). Prof. Viadero and Ph.D. students also continued to provide technical support to C-RAC for efforts to create interactive map-based stories that link people to the Mississippi River.
- Prof. Viadero appeared as a discussion panelist following a screening of "Dark Waters," at the Putnam Museum, in Davenport, IA.
- Prof. Viadero was a presenter at the 2024 Upper Mississippi River Conference's 'Masterclass on Interdisciplinary Education.
- In October 2024, Environmental science students hosted a hands-on water quality event for students from three QC area High Schools in conjunction with the Upper Mississippi River Conference's 'Next Gen Summit.

### **Mathematics & Philosophy:**

- Dr. Tasdan attended ATSF2024 (Approximation Theory and Special Functions) Conference - September 4-7, 2024, Ankara - Turkey and presented a research article titled "Modelling of Count Data in Circular Statistics".
- K. Felt participated in 4 webinars.
- Dr. Mann presented Primes, Palindromes, Patterns and Proof! at the NCTM annual conference and meeting in Chicago on Sep. 27.
- Dr. Brooks presented a workshop at the 2024 National Noyce Summit in Washington, D.C.
- D.B. Ekanayake and D.J. LaFountain, Tight partitions for packing circles in a circle, Italian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics vol. 51 (2024), pp. 115-13
- Dinesh Ekanayake, Hunter La Croix, Amy Ekanayake. Alternative stable states and disease induced extinction. Mathematical Modelling of Natural Phenomena 19 (2024): 18-33.
- Keely Nicole Wharton, Courtney A Walsh, Marlena Haulter, Dinesh Ekanayake, Dil Ekanayake-Alper. Sedation Efficacy of Midazolam in Conjunction with Ketamine and Alfaxalone in Female Laboratory Guinea Pigs (*Cavia porcellus*). Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (2024): Published online.

- K. Felt presented the following webinars/professional development: MacMillan ACHIEVE training, Alternatives to flip.com Alice Keeler, Math is Figureoutable K-8 Strategies update, New ACHIEVE user training, ACHIEVE-D2L Brightspace training, ACHIEVE training.

### **Nursing:**

- Dr. Lindsay White successfully defended her dissertation and earned a PhD in nursing from Illinois State University
- Dr. Leesa Thompson organized a mass casualty drill and emergency response workshop on October 11 for senior nursing students. This drill included live actors and guest speakers from the Peoria Corner's office, police departments and first responders.
- Dr. Lisa Downs, Dr. Leesa Thompson, Dr. White, Ms. Bhati Madegowda, Dr. King, Dr. Frederick and Ms. R. McCoy and the junior Nursing Class provided flu-shot clinics at the University Union throughout the months of October and November.
- Dr. Leesa Thompson presented at Carl Sandburg College's Discover Wellness Summit. Sept 20th. Topic: Health Literacy
- Four WIU Nursing students provided health information at a booth that addressed Health Literacy.
- Look Books from the admissions office were made available to potential students.
- Lisa Downs, volunteered to take senior nursing students to help with the International Student Health day with Beu Health Center.
- R. McCoy provides community service to assess daycare to maintain their DHS certification.
- R. McCoy serves on the Christian Community Family Life Center (CCFLC).
- L. Downs attended Vaccine Community Navigator Training sponsored by the Illinois Public Health Association at WIU.

### **Physics:**

- Research Publication by Dr. Pengqian Wang: "Etendue index of light in uniaxial crystals", Optics Continuum 3, 1612-1621(2024).
- Dr. Kishor T. Kapale and Mrs. Aparna Kapale: in collaboration with Macomb Middle School teachers Mr. Rebecca Melvin, and Mrs. Julie Stufflebeam and WIU retired mathematics education professor Dr. James Olson, are coaching the Middle-School Mathematics Olympiad Team for the new 2024-2025 season.
- Dr. Esteban D. Araya served as a faculty mentor of honor's thesis of Matthew Clayton (Physics major, Honors College), "Investigating the Origin of 4750 MHz Hydroxyl Emission in a Region of High-Mass Star Formation", thesis completed on May 2024
- Conference Presentation by Graduate Students Punya Paudel and Amisha Rane: Paudel P., Araya E., Rane A., Hofner P., Rodriguez T., Rosero V., 2024, IPoster: "Testing Non-LTE Codes to Model Methanol Observations of Ionized Jets in High-Mass Star Forming Regions", American Astronomical Society Meeting 244, Madison, WI, 302.09

(<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2024AAS...24430209P/abstract>) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Esteban D. Araya.

- Conference Presentation by Undergraduate Students Gabriel Sojka and Kenneth VanZuiden: Sojka G., VanZuiden K., Araya E., Busquet G., Girart J. M., Hofner P., Fernandez-Lopez M., et al., 2024, IPoster: "Changes in the Spectral Zoo: Preliminary Results of Molecular Maser Variability in VOLS", American Astronomical Society Meeting 244, Madison, WI, 302.06 (<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2024AAS...24430206S/abstract>), Faculty Mentor: Dr. Esteban D. Araya.
- Conference Presentation by recent BS graduate Matthew Clayton and MS program Alumnus Wei Siang Tan: Clayton M., Araya E., Tan W. S., Hofner P., Kurtz S., Linz H., 2024, IPoster: "High Resolution VLA Observations of a Hydroxyl Flow in the G34.26+0.15 High-Mass Star-Formation Complex", American Astronomical Society Meeting 244, Madison, WI, 302.02 (<https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2024AAS...24430202C/abstract>), Faculty Mentor: Dr. Esteban D. Araya.
- Dr. P. K. Babu Reviewed a manuscript for Materials Chemistry and Physics, June 2024.
- Dr. P. K. Babu Served as the external examiner for a PhD thesis from the Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, India, August 2024.
- Dr. Esteban D. Araya, served as a faculty mentor of two high-school students from the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA; a public STEM magnet secondary education institution in Aurora, Illinois, ranked by Newsweek as one of the top ten high schools in the country for math and science). The students participated in an intensive 2-week internship experience at the WIU Astrophysics Research Laboratory (July 2024), working with Dr. Araya on the analysis of VLA data from the VOLS (VLA Orion-A Large Survey) international collaboration to search for fast variability and polarization of methanol and hydroxyl masers in the Orion Nebula. Students learned to use specialized software in astrophysics, programming in Jupyter-Notebooks, developed presentations and reports.

### **Political Science:**

- Jongho Lee - Oct. 8, 2024: Nineteen high school students and two teachers from Denmark visited my Hist 116/World History class.
- Julia Albarracin - Recorded a podcast about my coauthored book Creating Conspiracy Beliefs with New Books Network.
- Julia Albarracin - Oct. 8, 2024: Orchestrated nineteen high school students and two teachers from Denmark throughout the WIU campus and arranged classroom visits in Morgan Hall.
- Julia Albarracin – International Day of Peace Celebration, Cultivating a Culture of Peace. October 1, 2024. Student involvement, student & faculty attended, open to the public. Award presented for outstanding involvement to promote peace.

- Professor Gregory Baldi gave a remote presentation (along with History Department Chair Tim Roberts) on the US Presidential Election to a group of faculty and students at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey.
- Professor Gregory Baldi was elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in the United Kingdom.
- Professors Julia Albarracin and Gregory Baldi and participated in the International Day of Peace event held on October 1 in the University Union. Established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace.
- Pre-Law Symposium – WIU Political Science professors Keith Boeckelman, Julia Albarracin, and Greg Baldi welcomed Political Science Department graduates Kyle Colson, Samuel Correa, Nashuba Hudson, and Ryan Homer back to campus last night for the Pre law Symposium.
- October 30, 2024 - Winter Unverzagt with SGA organized an Informal Townhall in “speed dating style” which created an atmosphere of easy communication for WIU faculty, admin, and students to discuss issues relevant to them.
- October 8, 2024 - The legal eagles return to the nest! WIU Political Science professors Keith Boeckelman, Julia Albarracin, and Greg Baldi welcomed Political Science Department graduates Kyle Colson, Samuel Correa, Nashuba Hudson, and Ryan Homer back to campus last night for the Pre-law Symposium, where they participated in a panel discussion about law school. Ryan (University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School), Samuel (University of Illinois Chicago School of Law), and Nashuba (Indiana University Maurer School of Law) are all current law school students, while Kyle graduated from the Northern Illinois University College of Law in 2020 and is now an attorney at the Law Offices of Donahue & Kililis, P.C. in McHenry, IL. Go PoliSci Leatherneck Lawyers!
- October 8, 2024 - 1982 political science grad Daniel Donnelly stopped by the department office for a visit. Dan is a partner at Cassidy Schade law firm in Chicago.
- September 4 - Major/Minor Mixer! Students listened to opportunities with the Political Science department and enjoyed pizza!
- September 10 – Harris/Trump Debate Party – Real time analysis by WIU Political Science faculty members, drinks and snacks provided.
- Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. speaking to Dr. Lee's Political Science 122 class before the Constitution Day Presentations.
- Constitution Day 2024! Tuesday September 17, Noon - 2:00 p.m., WIU University Union, Capitol Room. Keynote Speaker State Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. will present "The Electoral College: A Cornerstone of American Democracy." Panelists Dr. Timothy Roberts, Chair & Professor of History, Winter Hurst-Leadicker, Speaker of the SGA Senate. We welcome all to come out for this event or watch online by clicking on the "Live" tab at <https://www.youtube.com/@WiuEduMacomb>

- Associated Students of Political Science meetings Wednesdays. ASPS board meetings and membership meetings are held separate. One discussion topic included on American Electoral Politics & Examining Polling Data with regards to the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election.
- Dr. Julia Albarracin was invited to be a member of Governor Pritzker's Racial Equity Roundtable on Latino/a/e Homelessness. The central goal of this roundtable is to allow the State of Illinois to better understand the unique challenges Latine Illinoisans face in accessing stable housing and shift narratives around homelessness away from personal responsibility and towards structural root causes.

### **Psychology:**

- Pashak, T., Hammersley, J., Zarkin, J., & Waldron, J. Mentorship for Applied Psychology Fields: Challenges, Successes, & Future Directions. Chapter in Teaching Tips: A Compendium of Conferences Presentations on Teaching. Society for the Teaching of Psychology. Ebook: <https://teachpsych.org/ebooks/index.php#Teaching>
- Student Kristi Schon was awarded a CAS URG grant for her honors thesis.
- Leigh Ann Fisler attended a graduate school panel on 10/21 at Bradley University and spoke about School Psychology and General Experimental Psychology graduate programs.
- Cruise, T. K., Simon, D., & Swerdlik, M. E. (2024). Meta Supervision for Practicing Supervisors. Presentation at the 25th Annual Illinois Supervision Workshop at Illinois State University, Normal, IL.
- Hammersley, J., Editor/Content Consultant (2024). Teens Dealing with Addiction. BrightPoint Press. Available at <https://www.referencepointpress.com/TeensDealingwithAddiction.aspx>
- Grant received: Fisler, L. A., & Pierson, N. WIU Expanding Autism Service with Western Autism Center of Excellence. Tracy Family Foundation. 2024. [\$30,000].

### **Race, Religion, Gender, and Multidisciplinary Studies:**

- Amy Carr served as one of the two panelists for "Diverse Christian Perspectives on Abortion" on October 6 at the Lutheran Student Center on campus.
- Dr. Amy Carr and Dr. Betsy Perabo participated in a "talkback" panel following a Department of Theater and Dance's production of "The Rocky Horror Show" on October 24, along with the show's director and representatives from the Multicultural Center. Among a range of many topics, the panel discussed representations of gender, the historical context of the show, first produced in the 1970s, and strategies used by the director in adapting it for a modern audience.

- Dr. Betsy Perabo submitted four courses – AAS 100, Introduction to African American Studies; WS190, Introduction to Women’s Studies; REL 100, World Religions, and REL 111, Introduction to Western Religions – to the Illinois Articulation Initiative panels (IAI), to be assessed at the statewide level for inclusion in WIU’s General Education program. The IAI panel approved AAS 100 and WS 190 in October, and REL 100 November. Pending final approval from the Council on General Education and the administration, AAS100 and WS190 will once again become an official part of the WIU’s general education curriculum, and REL 100 will be added to general education.
- The RRG&MS Department hosted an Open House on October 23 for current and prospective majors and minors and students interested in Spring 2025 courses in the department. About 20 students, faculty, and staff members attended.
- Dr. Sharon Hunter is currently working with students in her African American Studies classes to develop proposals to submit to the National Council of Black Studies Spring 2025 conference in Cincinnati. The CAS foundation office has secured funding to support some of the students' expenses.
- The Religious Studies Program hosted the 37th annual Mary Olive Woods Lecture on September 26, 2024. Supported by the Mary Olive Woods Trust, the MOW lecture brings prestigious scholars in the fields of religious studies and philosophy to Western Illinois University each year. This year’s lecturer, Dr. Valerie Cooper of Duke Divinity School, spoke on the topic, “Segregated Sundays: How Racially Segregated Worship Feeds Political Divisions” and responded to questions by faculty, staff, students, and community members. RRG&MS Interim Chair Dr. Betsy Perabo, who coordinated Dr. Cooper’s visit, introduced the talk, which was followed by a reception in the Sandburg Lounge. Dr. Cooper also met for conversation on her talk and other research on Friday, September 27. The Friday session included members of a faculty reading group from Religious Studies, African American Studies, and Philosophy, who had spent several sessions reading Dr. Cooper’s work prior to her visit.
- Dr. Amy Carr published an article, “Leaning In to the Constructive Criticism: On Justice, the Heart of the Gospel, Quietism, and Both-Sidesism, in the fall issue of The Journal of Lutheran Ethics. The entire issue of the journal is devoted to an engagement with Dr. Carr’s book, Ordinary Faith in Polarized Times: Justification and the Pursuit of Justice (Baylor University Press, 2023), co-authored with Northwestern University professor Dr. Christine Helmer.
- Seven Religious Studies Minors received Mary Olive Woods Scholarships this fall, which will be renewed for Spring 2025 if all requirements are met. They are Kali Becker, Lissa Bevins, Maribell Cunningham, Michelle Chavez, Krista DeHaven, Jael Henning, and Elizabeth Pendleton.
- African American Studies Minor Torrie Williams received the Dr. Essie Manuel Rutledge Scholarship. The scholarship, given in honor of Emeritus Professor Dr. Essie Manuel

Rutledge, requires that students submit an essay describing how their activities and experiences demonstrate potential leadership qualities that foster social justice. AAS Instructor Dr. Sharon Hunter mentored Torrie during her application process.

- Women's Studies minor Samantha Adcock received both the Women's Studies Book Award and the Women's Studies Scholarship for Fall 2024.
- The Religious Studies Program received approval from the Faculty Senate and Provost to add a new course, REL 100, World Religions, in Spring 2025, and modified the Religious Studies Minor to incorporate this course.
- The Religious Studies student organization RELICS (Religious and Cultural Scholars Club) participated in the Student Activities Fair on August 23 and held an informational and recruitment meeting on September 3.
- In addition to mentoring this year's Rutledge Scholar, Dr. Sharon Hunter is currently working with students in her African American Studies classes to develop proposals to submit to the National Council of Black Studies Spring 2025 conference in Cincinnati.
- Seven Religious Studies minors received Mary Olive Woods Scholarships, which are administered by the Religious Studies Program in the Department of Race, Religion, Gender, and Multidisciplinary Studies. The recipients are: Kali Becker, Melissa Bevins, Michelle Chavez, Maribell Cunningham, Krista DeHaven, Jael Henning, and Elizabeth Pendleton.

### **Sociology and Anthropology:**

- Jacob Skousen co-authored a paper given at the Illinois Archaeological Survey annual meeting (held last weekend) called "Envisioning Collaborative Archaeology at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey" (Elizabeth Watts Malouchos, Alleen Betzenhauser, Jacob Skousen, and Erin Benson).
- Sylvia Angelova, Anthropology major, won the Illinois Archaeological Survey student paper award "A Comparison of Cost Efficiency and Quality of UAS and Open-Source Software in Photogrammetry". Her paper derived from work completed with Dr. Jacob Skousen for her Anth 490 Independent Study course.
- Fall 2024 Department Scholars announced:
  - Anthropology - Sylvia Angelova
  - Sociology - Mariah Armstrong
- Abigail Chipps Stone, Kelly A. Kennedy, G. Logan Miller, B. Jacob Skousen, Ryan Lange (2024) Isotopic evidence for non-local elk hunting by the Noble-Wieting community. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 57. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2024.104690>
- Chang, Gordon. Interview with New Books Network for *Revolution and Witchcraft: The Code of Ideology in Unsettled Times*. Podcast episode hosted by Prof. Michael O. Johnston, June 14, 2024. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/revolution-and-witchcraft-2>

- Chang, Gordon C. and Wayne "J.R." Osborn. 2024. "Ideas as an Analytic Unit: Using 'Codification Model' to Unpack Complex Cognition." 118th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. 10 August 2024, Montréal, Quebec, Canada.
- Received provost approval of ONLINE MA Program in Sociology.
- Welcome session for new majors in Sociology and Anthropology on Friday, August 16th (First Four Days Event). Sociology and Anthropology faculty members met with students and participated in a Quiz Style game to learn more about course offerings, career opportunities, and faculty research.

## **College of Business and Technology**

**WIU College of Business and Technology Hosts CEO Leadership Summit** – The College of Business & Technology welcomed seven regional high-school CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) programs to Stipes Hall for the 2nd annual CEO Summit held on November 8. This leadership conference provides an opportunity for entrepreneurial-minded high school students to network and build relationships with other CEO students, to expand their leadership skills, strengthen business acumen, and ignite their entrepreneurial spirit. Students received advice from the Midlands Institute leadership team, engaged with WIU Board of

Trustees Student Member, Mr. Cody Cornell, and attended small group sessions focusing on negotiation skills and budgeting. This is a great professional development event for students and provides an opportunity for students to connect with WIU faculty and explore campus.

**Supply Chain Management Students Place Third in 2024 Collins Aerospace Case Competition** – Four students under the direction of faculty mentor, Mr. Andre Du Plessis, participated in a two-day supply chain competition hosted by Collins Aerospace in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on October 17-18. The competition challenged students to identify a solution to an obsolescence issue and develop a twenty-year production plan that minimizes costs, meets quality standards, and preserves strong relationships with customers and suppliers. The top three teams were selected to present their solutions to the Collins Aerospace leadership team. This is the first time WIU has participated in this competition and earned an impressive third place standing.

**Accounting Students participate in Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Student Leadership Conference** -Ms. Ford, Instructor of Accountancy, and two undergraduate accounting students attended the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) Student Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California, in early November. During the conference, Ms. Ford was a highlighted speaker presenting a session on the changes to the CMA (Certified Management Accountant) and the rollout of the new FMAA (Financial and Managerial Accounting Associate) certificates. The students were able to network with industry professionals and attend many sessions on career development, ethics, technology, and fraud.

**WIU Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Recognition** - Fourteen students from the WIU Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) attended the annual regional Conference in Chicago from October 25-27. The conference allows students to meet industry professionals, learn about licensing, navigate the job market, attend educational sessions, and build their network. WIU's chapter is one of the most active in the region and received an award for the largest delegation and engagement at NABA



conferences. Each year the School of Accounting, Finance, Economics, & Decision Sciences sends over a dozen students to the regional and national conferences. Most students leave the conference with job offers, including opportunities at the "Big Four" public accounting firms.

**WIU's Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi Receives Superior Chapter Award for 35th consecutive year -** WIU's Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the International Honor Society for Financial Information Students, has again been recognized as a Superior Chapter at this year's annual convention. The chapter holds one of the longest streaks of such distinguished recognition nationally, with 35 consecutive awards. While the chapter excels holistically, individual members thrive as well. Accounting student and Beta Alpha Psi member, Haley Guhlstorf, was selected among an elite group of students to participate in this year's case-based competition known as "Project Run With It". The competition, sponsored by Moss Adams, brings together a select number of students from around the country to compete. Working in small teams, the students serve as consultants to a non-profit organization in the hopes of presenting possible solutions to real-world business challenges.

**SHRM Chapter Receives Superior Merit Award -**The WIU Chapter for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) received the Superior Merit Award for its outstanding contributions to the HR profession. This prestigious recognition highlights WIU's HR program for excellence in providing students with quality education, professional development opportunities, and engagement with the broader HR community. The award reflects WIU's commitment to preparing students for successful careers in human resources, with a focus on leadership, ethical practices, and workforce development. WIU's SHRM student chapter's active involvement in regional events and initiatives further contributed to this achievement, positioning the university as a leader in Human Resource education.

**Engineering Programs Earn ABET Accreditation -** ABET accreditation is essential for engineering programs as it ensures that educational standards meet the industry's rigorous demands and certifies program quality, enhances graduate employability, and establishes global credibility. Accredited programs also foster continuous improvement, aligning curricula with evolving technology and industry practices, thereby producing competent, career-ready engineers. Electrical Engineering accreditation is maintained for an additional six years, and Civil, Mechanical, and General Engineering maintain accreditation with additional submissions expected over the next two years.

**School of Engineering and Technology Partner with the QC Deck the Downtown –** The Downtown Davenport Partnership, Rock Island Downtown Alliance and Downtown Bettendorf Organization host an annual event "Deck the Downtowns" with promotions that encourage people to eat, drink, shop and spend time in downtowns, running throughout the holiday season. As part of the event, visitors can participate in the German tradition of hunting for the "holiday pickle ornament" in downtown Davenport to receive prizes. Students within the School of Engineering and Technology produced three hundred 3-D printed pickles for the hunt.

**School of Agriculture Connection to FFA Leadership -**The newly elected National FFA President Thaddeus Bergschneider hails from the Franklin Illinois FFA Chapter. Thaddeus's two FFA advisors from the Franklin Chapter are WIU alumni (Mr. Brent Nelson & Ms. Kaitlyn Kane). The last Illinois National FFA officer elected, which was in 2022, was Gracie Murphy (Eastern Region Vice-President), who hails from the Macomb FFA Chapter. Her FFA advisor was also a WIU alum (Mr. Wyatt McGrew). Even though these students selected other institutions to attend, they do have strong ties to WIU through their agriculture

teachers. It is a testament to WIU for preparing quality teachers who see the true potential in their students and guide them to fulfill their own aspirations in the agriculture industry.

**WIU Livestock Judging Team Competition Awards** - Grace Angotti, a senior member of WIU's Livestock Judging Team, was the High Individual at the American Royal Livestock Judging competition in early November in Kansas City, MO. The WIU Team overall placed 5<sup>th</sup> in this competition. The WIU Livestock Judging Team also received 1st place at the World Beef Expo and a 2nd place finish at the National Barrow Show earlier this fall. Currently, the WIU Livestock Judging Team is ranked 5th overall in the Collegiate Standings moving into the final round of competition this fall.

## **College of Education and Human Services**

### **CNED/CSP/SW:**

- Richard Anzueto, senior Social Work student was selected as WIU's Lincoln Laureate. This award was presented on Oct. 26th in Springfield. After graduation, Anzueto plans to attend graduate school to receive a master's in social work to become a licensed clinical social worker. Richard also plans on commissioning into the Illinois National Guard as a second lieutenant and working at Youth Crossroads or J.S. Morton East High School as a counselor.
- Social Work's Kappa Sigma Chapter earned the 2023-2024 National Phi Alpha Chapter Service Award, recognizing the chapter's outstanding service and commitment to the community.
- On September 20, Social Work hosted a recruiting day for prospective students, including professional skill development workshops and opportunities to learn about employment opportunities in social work.
- Social Work held a Thanksgiving dinner for departmental faculty and students on November 14. It was well attended with 4 professors and 15 students sharing favorite dishes from their families.
- The College Student Personnel Program hosted a conference, Student Affairs 101, on October 18<sup>th</sup>, bringing over 150 student affairs graduate students and practitioners from around Illinois and the Midwest to campus for a day of professional development.
- College Student Personnel has hosted 3 open houses, 2 virtually and 1 in person, for the Fall 2025 admissions cycle. 30 prospective students attended.
- Counselor Education held a recruiting event in the Quad Cities on November 19 focused on the School Counseling program. The event was attended by prospective students and a number of local school administrators, including the Rock Island County Regional Superintendent of Schools.
- College Student Personnel Program Faculty held an Open House (Nov. 6th). School Counseling Faculty held an Open House (Nov. 19th). Alumni: Amy Zero, a graduate of WIU's Counselor Education program and School Counselor at Rock Island Academy, has been named the Illinois School Counselor Association's (ISCA) 2024 Illinois K-8 School Counselor of the Year. Zero's award underscores the district's continued excellence in providing top-tier student support services and highlights the impact of WIU's Counselor Education program in preparing leaders in the field. Zero has been a key figure in reshaping the school counseling approach in the Rock Island-Milan School District (RIMSD). Over the past three years, her efforts have led to significant advancements in the district's counseling programs, which have been acknowledged at the state level. In 2023, Zero, along with a fellow RIMSD counselor, presented their work at the ISCA Conference,

showcasing the district's commitment to pioneering new strategies that better serve students and their families

- Our 2023-2024 Kappa Sigma Chapter (Social Work) won the National Phi Alpha Chapter Service Award! Our Chapter has been invited to present a poster presentation about our service activities at the CSWE APM on October 25th in Kansas City, MO. We will receive \$1,000.00 towards travel, a check for \$500.00 and a plaque.
- Dr. Haley Wikoff was awarded Provost Award for Academic Excellence in Multicultural Teaching.
- Dr. Julie Brines along with Henissa Charles (grad student) and Nikisha Smith (alum) are presenting at the 2025 national conference for NASPA in New Orleans (March 15-19). Their session is titled: Securing Success: Employment Pathways for International Graduates in Student Affairs. Dr. Julie Brines presented "Leading by Example: Student Success with Your Online Course Design" at the 2024 Illinois Online Higher Education Symposium. There were over 50 attendees at this session (11/8/24).

### **KIN/HS:**

- Emily Shupe Food Pantry provided meals for over 200 families in partnership with City of Macomb volunteers.
- Master of Public Health graduate student Oladimeji Taiwo has been accepted into the highly competitive 2025-2026 cohort of the Kaiser Permanente Administrative Fellowship Program (KPAFP), a national initiative designed to develop the next generation of healthcare leaders. The KPAFP is renowned for providing its fellows with comprehensive knowledge of healthcare operations and strategic planning. It offers formal mentorship from senior executives and hands-on experience through project-based work. This year, the Northern California region of Kaiser Permanente received 266 applications for only four available fellowship positions, resulting in a rigorous 1.5% acceptance rate. Following a competitive selection process, which included three stages of virtual interviews and an on-site interview in the San Francisco Bay Area, Taiwo was one of the few selected for this coveted opportunity. "We are so proud of Oladimeji's accomplishments and he has a great future ahead of him. He is another example of our Public Health students that go on to outstanding careers" stated Renee Polubinsky, the Graduate Coordinator for the MPH Program.
- MPH Alum: Dr. Chukwuebuka Ogwo has been named the director of Harvard School of Dental Medicine's Advanced Graduate Education Program in Dental Public Health (DPH). Previously, he served as an assistant professor of dentistry and the director of the Master in Oral Health Sciences program at Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry. Ogwo's research focuses on preventive oral hygiene intervention and the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in predicting oral health conditions. He is leading efforts to expand the use of machine learning algorithms in the prediction of dental caries as well as the development of tools for AI-powered teledentistry.
- Dr. Jennifer Plos has been named the chair of Kinesiology beginning January 1, 2025.
- Dr. Maureen Bezold and six MPH graduate students attended the American Public Health Association (APHA) national conference in Minneapolis, MN Oct. 27-30th.

### **RPTH/SM**

- RPTH MS Graduate, Frisman Jackson, was inducted into the WIU Athletic Hall of Fame recently. Dr. Mike Lukkarinen accepted the award on his behalf, as he was traveling with his team to Atlanta where they beat the Falcons. Frisman is the wide receivers coach for the Seattle Seahawks.

**SOE/PE:**

- The Physical Education Professional Development conference was held Friday October 18. The focus was inclusion strategy called Unified PE and the PE focused Social Emotional Learning model called Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility.
- SOE participated in Future Teachers Day (FTD) on the WIU Macomb campus 10/25/24 and was well represented by our students and our student groups.
- Great River Teacher Corps: Rural Teacher Cadet Program was launched at FTD on October 25 for our attending High School Teacher Cadet Advisors.
- WIU’s Great River Teacher Corps (GRTC) members: Madison Boyer ‘24, Justin Shelts, Peyton Maloney, Brooke McCurry, Aubrey Brumbaugh, & Katie Russell attended and presented a poster session at National Forum to Advance Rural Education 2024, October 31 – November 1, 2024, Savannah, GA .
- The next WIU Roundtable will be held on December 4th. This will be the Education Summit and will feature The Illinois Principals Association, the Illinois School Board Association, The Illinois Association of School Business Officials and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools.

COEHS Advising-Monica Eskridge Academic Advisor retiring after ~30 years.

**College of Fine Arts and Communication**

**THE COLLEGE**

**Recruitment Initiatives**

**Accepted student postcard. All COFAC Accepted Student receive this postcard with a welcome message on the back.**



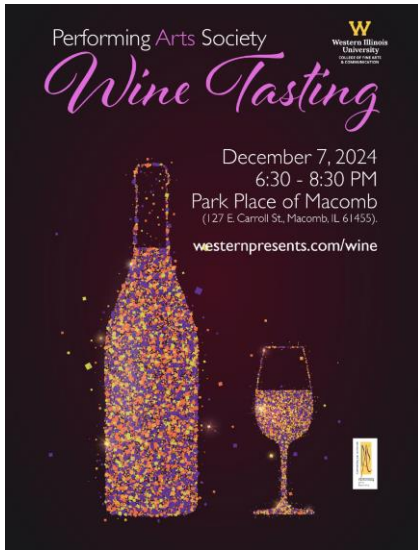
Performing Arts Society  
WINE TASTING 2024

Close out the City of Macomb's *Dicken's on the Square* celebration by joining the PAS for WINE TASTING! Back by popular demand, PAS is hosting this event after several years! Enjoy over 40 national and international wines, including two special releases. The evening will also include light hors d'oeuvres, music, and a silent auction.

Reservations \$45  
Non-alcoholic reservation \$30

Register at  
[westernpresents.com/wine](http://westernpresents.com/wine)  
Questions? Call 309-298-1618

*Generously Underwritten by* *Wine Sponsors*



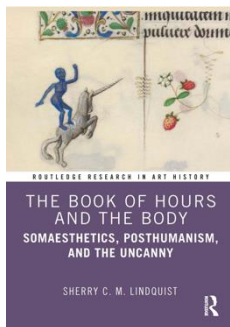
MAKE PLANS NOW

**Performing Arts Society Annual Gala  
05 April 2025 University Union Ballroom**

**ART and DESIGN**

**First Wednesday Returns**

Every First Wednesday of the month, Garwood Hall and the Heating Plant Annex at well as the Art Gallery, bustle with students, parents, and local community folks creating art and having a great Wednesday evening.



Dr. Sherry Lindquist just published her new book  
*The Book of Hours and the Body*  
Somaesthetics, Post Humanism and the Uncanny

## *The Western Illinois University High School Art Exhibition and Awards*

7 High Schools  
120 students  
91 juried entries



## **SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION and MEDIA**

The School was formed late Spring 2024 merging the Department of Communication and the Department of Broadcasting and Journalism in an effort to model best practices and enhance programming and opportunity between both programs.

Dr. Josh Averbek (School of Communication and Media) delivered the 35th Annual Thompson Professor Lecture entitled "Are students addicted to TikTok?" This lecture series is a signature event for the School of Communication and Media, engaging students, faculty and the broader community in conversations about the role of media in society. The lecture was picked up and highlighted in local media:

<https://www.wqad.com/article/news/local/tiktok-addiction-signs-advice/526-341c7fa4-15e4-4b6e-bf2a-b5fb1af8e4fb>

Heartfelt congratulations to our Fall 2024 Endowed Thompson Scholar Award winners:

Gracie Havens (Undergraduate Scholar Award)

Emma Ginther (Undergraduate Scholar Award)

Hamza Rabiou (Graduate Scholar Award)

Dr. Pamela Peters (School of Communication and Media) won 3rd Place in the Smartphone category of the International Photography Awards with her photo, "Incoming Storm."

## **MUSEUM STUDIES**

### **Museum Studies Graduate Program**

Faculty and students attended the 2024 annual conference of the Iowa Museum Association in Sioux City, Iowa. WIU Museum Studies Graduate Program is a strategic industry partner with the IMA and served as Friends of the Conference sponsor.

Dr. Heidi Lung, director of museum studies, presented "STEPS-IMA: A Statewide Museum Professional Mentorship Program" at the Iowa Museum Association Conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



Dr. Heidi Lung received the [2024 Iowa Museum Association Leadership Award](#).



WIU museum studies students attend a behind-the scenes tour of the Putnam Museum in Davenport, Iowa

WIU Museum Studies hosted a booth at the Quad Cities Archives Fair, attended by over 100 area professionals and students.

Faculty and students attended the 2024 Illinois Museum Association conference in Joliet, Illinois, in October 2024. WIU Museum Studies Graduate Program served as a sponsor to the program.

Dr. Heidi Lung will serve on the planning committee for the [Association of Midwest Museum's 2025 July conference in the Quad Cities](#). WIU Museum Studies faculty and students will attend and support the event, which is projected to bring over 400 regional museum professionals to the area.

### **SCHOOL OF MUSIC**



**The School of Music at Western Illinois University was voted one of the TOP 100 Schools of Music in the Country**

Many events through the School of Music this fall including:

The WIU High School Marching Band Classic, with over 20 high school bands from the region competing on Hansen Field.

The Marching Leathernecks performed Halftime shows at all Home Football Games, multiple local parades and even as the band for Macomb High School Football at the IHSA 4A Playoffs



Illinois Music Educators Association held its annual festival November 02 across WIU's campus. It culminates with 2 sold out performances in Western Hall with Junior High and a High School Regional Choir, Band and Orchestra performances with over 800 student musicians and 2000+ parents, family and friends.



Music Discovery Day brought over 50 students to campus for a day of discover what being a student of music is all about, and preparation for School of Music auditions.

The School of Music is an Audition Only Program



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble has been invited to play the *Midwest International Band and Orchestra Conference*, the largest music convention in the world. They will be performing the Mainstage at McCormick Place in Chicago in December.

How do you get to Carnegie Hall . . .?  
Follow the WIU Wind Ensemble

Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage



AT  
Carnegie Hall

MAY 23, 2025

Join us at the World Famous  
CARNEGIE HALL for a one-night only experience  
with our very

Western Illinois University WIND ENSEMBLE under the direction of Dr. Mike Fansler Friday, May 23  
2025



**SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY**

Speech Pathology and Audiology has been very busy with their clients and school clinics. Also, on the recruiting trail with multiple opportunities for perspective students to learn all about becoming part of the SPA!

**THEATRE AND DANCE**



**New Friends**

Each fall, all new first year students along with select others, get a chance to be on stage right off the bat in our New Friends production. Unique to our program, this ensures everyone on stage and back stage gets involved right from the beginning. A huge boost to retention and a great opportunity for everyone.

Worth repeating . . .

Musical Theatre Folks are standing tall as well



**The Rocky Horror Show**

This cult classic was produced with great success with close to 1000 audience members the production run.

Rocky included audience “participation”. As well as nightly talk backs with performers and contests for the public



costume

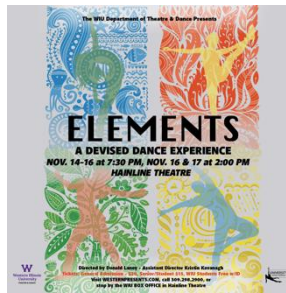


**A Skull in Connemara**

Martin McDonagh’s dark comedic Irish tale  
Produced in October in Simpkins Theatre  
MFA graduate student directed

## Elements

A Devised Dance Experience  
In Performance November 14-17  
Hainline Theatre



## UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Muyiwa Adeyanju - Roots and Routes  
September 10 - October 17, 2024



Duke Oursler - Rural Route 1  
October 1 - November 8, 2024

Joe Turner - Two Halves of a Whole, All Taken Down  
October 22 - November 13, 2024  
Reception: Wednesday, November 13, 4:30-6:00  
ANNEX GALLERY



TALENT GRANT  
TUITION WAIVER  
EXHIBITION

November 12 - December 6, 2024  
Reception: Tuesday, November 19, 4:30-6:00



Glenwood Hall Third Floor, Andrew Tomlinson, digital photograph, 20 x 30 in.

## **TRI STATES PUBLIC RADIO**

TSPR just closed out the annual on-air fund drive with a modest increase in support. Just over +6%. From the previous year.

The Gratitude Project for Thanksgiving.

Share what you are thankful for this season in 30 second bites.

<https://www.tspr.org/gratitude>

### **In time for the Holidays**

#### *Soothing Soundwaves*

Five times a day, a brief, one-minute program related to help reduce anxiety created by the heavy news cycles just in time for the holiday season.

Sit back and relax

## **Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs**

### **Grants**

The IIRA secured a \$225,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The DCEO grant will fund the WIU Small Business Development Centers on the WIU Macomb and Quad Cities campuses. The grant runs from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

### **Presentations**

Hamm, Gisele and Chris Merrett. 2024. A Community-Engaged Governors Rural Affairs Council. Quarterly Meeting of the Governors Rural Affairs Council. Coal City, IL. November 14.

Athiyaman, Adee and Chris Merrett. 2024. The Economic Impact of Dollar General Stores in the Rural Midwest. School of Earth, Environment, and Sustainability (SEES) Departmental Colloquium. Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, November 11.

Athiyaman, Adee and Chris Merrett. 2024. The Impact of Dollar General Stores on Rural Illinois. Annual Conference of the Illinois Innovation Network. Illinois State University, Normal, IL. October 18.

Merrett, Chris. 2024. Keynote Address: Challenges and Opportunities for Rural and Downstate Development. One Shawnee Rural Summit. Vienna, IL. October 11.

Merrett, Chris, Bob Sinkler, Chris Smith, and Honey Zimmerman. 2024. Regional Ports as Drivers of Economic Development and Innovation. Upper Mississippi River Regional Multi-Modal Port & Logistics Center Annual Meeting. Moline, IL. October 10.

Merrett, Chris. 2024. Panel Moderator. The Role of Economic Development Organizations and Funding Opportunities for Ports. Moline, IL. Upper Mississippi River Regional Multi-Modal Port & Logistics Center Annual Meeting. Moline, IL October 10.

Merrett, Chris, Bob Sinkler, Chris Smith, and Honey Zimmerman. 2024. Regional Ports as Business Clusters and Centers for Logistics Innovation. Tri-State Development Summit. Burlington, IA. October 3.

## **Professional Service**

Illinois Innovation Network (IIN) members elected Chris Merrett to serve as Vice-Chair for the IIN. The IIN is a network of public universities in the State of Illinois designed to spur university-driven innovation and economic development. This is a two-year term.

Chris Merrett served on the planning committee for the 2024 Illinois Innovation Network Research Conference hosted by Illinois State University on October 18, 2024.

## **University Libraries**

WIU's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary was formally celebrated with a trio of special exhibitions of photos and artifacts at the Malpass Library. The event was open to the public.

Dean Maymi-Sugranes was selected as one of the Office of the Illinois State Comptroller's Distinguished Hispanic Heritage Month honorees.

## **Center for Global Studies**

Commencement is near and over 160 international students will graduate in December.

Our application pool remains robust but our conversion rate declined sharply in fall and spring is expected to follow suit. Visa denials are partly to blame as well as visa availability dates. Recruitment efforts continue.

Our international students only help make our campuses and our classes more vibrant and diverse.

Learning and living alongside individuals from around the globe helps our students and campus community learn to avoid stereotyping and form more informed opinions. It gives everyone a better understanding of international issues, foreign affairs, and immigration issues. It provides opportunities for unique cross-cultural experiences, whether celebrating new holidays, sampling new cuisines, or traveling to visit friends in their home countries.

## **Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board**

This quarter's contributions to the University community:

- The Executive Institute, one of the leading non-academic departments on campus, is currently managing over forty active grants this fiscal year.
- At every conference and training, the ILETSB Executive Institute either promotes WIU by means of promotional materials/flyers, verbal acknowledgement of WIU alumni in attendance, and collaborative efforts with LEJA, Psychology Department, Social Work Department, Management and Marketing Department, Philosophy Department, etc. Our name/branding is strongly associated with Western Illinois University, which further promotes recruitment/retention initiatives for the University.
- The Executive Institute promotes experiential learning through applied studies in external

settings. These applied settings include internships, graduate assistant positions, and practicum students. The Executive Institute provides opportunities for student development and learning outside the classroom through involvement, leadership, and co-curricular experiences in environments that are supportive, challenging, and inclusive. Additionally, the Executive Institute provides professional development to all practicum and intern students through attendance and participation at conferences and meetings.

- The Executive Institute offers three primary ILETSB-certified courses targeting various levels of leadership in Illinois' law enforcement community. With a blended faculty of innovative criminal justice academics and practitioners from throughout the United States, and classes reflecting a broad spectrum of experience, professional disciplines and geographic distribution, these programs provide an exceptional and widely respected educational experience. Staff collaborated with the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration at Western Illinois University to offer undergraduate and graduate academic credit for core curriculum courses.
  - The ILETSB Executive Institute continues to utilize WIU faculty in our programming, which most recently included LEJA and Business.
- The Executive Institute manages the Emergency Operations Center grant on behalf of the University. Staff continues to attend EOC project meetings with LEJA, McDonough County ESDA, Facilities Management, and Sponsored Projects.
- Continue to support research projects with Department of Psychology at Western Illinois University, as well as the Professional Research Pool for Criminal Justice Science ([www.prpforcjscience.org](http://www.prpforcjscience.org))
- The Executive Institute continues to use the UPM and Transportation Services Department for staff that travels to trainings, which for the previous quarter was nearly a daily occurrence.
- We have been a long-standing partner with the Center for the Application of Information Technology (CAIT) on campus, as they not only house our Online Learning Network, but also host our Help Desk and Part-Time Academy. CAIT also assists the Executive Institute with instructional design services, website development, and photographic and video needs. For the past two years CAIT has produced our keynote speaker introductions, which continues to receive high praise. The videos have even reached national level decision makers at the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executive, who have inquired about using CAIT-produced-videos at their conferences as well.
- The School and Campus Safety Center, which is housed at the Executive Institute, also contributed:
  - September 4-5, Responded to the off campus shooting incident to serve in the WIU EOC. (18-hour operation)

- September 24, Targeted Violence Prevention for Student Affairs Professionals on College and University Campuses at the Student Affairs Conference at WIU
- October 4th, Full Scale Reunification and Command and Control Drill with WIU and Macomb School District
- October 22-23, Represented WIU GIS Center at the IPSTA telecommunications conference
- November 14-15, Campus Threat Assessment and Case Management at WIU

## **Sponsored Projects**

### Pre-Award:

Kari Woodrum has worked on updating and enhancing the University Research Council (URC) program. She updated the guidelines, created more user-friendly forms and started the process of recording on-demand webinars to guide interested faculty through the application process. The application deadline will be mid-April.

As reported last Board meeting Kari worked with GrantForward, a grant funding database, to promote faculty and staff usage to increase grant proposal activity. GrantForward hosted a webinar on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Twenty WIU people attended the presentation that day and thirty requested a copy of the webinar.

Kari has seen an increase in the usage of GrantForward and monitors the activity to reach out to faculty & staff to assist in proposal development and submission.

Kari is also working with McAlister & Quinn to submit a National Science Foundation (NSF) GRANTED grant to help support the recruitment and retention of research administrators in the sponsored projects offices at rural, underserved universities.

### Post-Award:

There are currently no Grant & Contract Administrators in Sponsored Projects with the last GCA resigning to take a remote position with the University of Illinois. Shannon and Kari are working diligently to try to keep up with the work of the three vacant post-award positions while maintaining internal controls.

### Compliance:

John Smith, AVP Facilities, is assisting through the end of the calendar year in the review and approval of human subjects research (Institutional Review Board (IRB)) as the Compliance Specialist position remains vacant. John was WIU's first Compliance Specialist in 2005.

In addition to grant-related activities, Shannon is working closely with staff from Business Services, Purchasing, and Utech on the development and implementation of the new ERP system, Ellucian Colleague. OSP is an integral part of the development of the Projects module as this will house all grant activity in addition to other activity not tied to a specific fiscal year. Projects Accounting is set to go-live January 1<sup>st</sup>. OSP is responsible for manually entering all grant accounts into the new system as there are no upload features in Ellucian Colleague. This has been an extremely time-consuming process but we are looking forward to the additional benefits the system will have once it is fully implemented.

## **School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration**

LEJA hosted an Open House on October 23 in the Union. All local high schools were invited to attend and the event was open to all WIU students and community members as well. Approximately 250 plus students were in attendance.

WIU and John Wood Community College signed an articulation agreement establishing a transfer pathway for JWCC students pursuing a degree in criminal justice/law enforcement.

The School continues to move forward with marketing and recruitment efforts to increase awareness and enrollment.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Report No. 24.12/6 -- Report on Contributions



## Fundraising Progress Report July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Pledges Made	Planned Gifts (FV)*	Total Pledges
\$ 804,515	\$ 2,730,000	<b>\$ 3,534,515</b>
Cash Gifts	Gifts-in-Kind	Total Receipts
\$ 1,526,575	\$ 52,303	<b>\$ 1,578,878</b>

	Overall Total	Goal	% to Goal
Fiscal Year	<b>\$ 5,113,393</b>	\$10,000,000	51.1%
Campaign	<b>\$ 63,725,200</b>	\$ 100,000,000	63.7%

\*Discounted Present Value for the 4 planned gift pledge(s):  
\$ 1,930,301

Deferred gifts not included in totals:

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year goals and progress  
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members  
 NOTES: Cash Gifts do not include pledge payments.  
 Gifts-in-kind do not include service or noncharitable gifts-in-kind.  
 Printed on 2024-11-18



## Fundraising Progress Report July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

COLLEGE/UNIT	PLEDGES	GIFTS	GIFTS- IN-KIND	PLANNED GIFTS	FISCAL YEAR TOTAL	PREVIOUS FY TOTAL
CAS	16,954	232,745	13,980	0	<b>263,680</b>	989,784
CBT	94,743	114,480	0	1,365,000	<b>1,574,223</b>	5,876,644
COEHS	10,047	150,543	0	1,365,000	<b>1,525,591</b>	499,336
COFAC	277,450	225,210	4,400	0	<b>507,060</b>	911,521
ATHLETICS	191,195	413,108	22,543	0	<b>626,847</b>	471,779
STUDENT SUCCESS	13,258	41,994	0	0	<b>55,252</b>	295,395
LIBRARY	454	1,592	214	0	<b>2,260</b>	34,417
HONORS	210	10	0	0	<b>220</b>	21,597
GLOBAL STUDIES	1,320	30	0	0	<b>1,350</b>	9,685
QC	4,138	10,134	0	0	<b>14,272</b>	70,209
ALUMNI	1,999	11,501	0	0	<b>13,500</b>	52,665
BGS	1,000	460	0	0	<b>1,460</b>	7,470
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	17,081	84,980	0	0	<b>102,061</b>	986,962
TRI-STATES RADIO	139,003	57,465	0	0	<b>196,468</b>	316,476
WQPT	4,834	124,863	10,277	0	<b>139,974</b>	670,031
OTHER	30,826	57,459	889	0	<b>89,174</b>	574,567
<b>UNIVERSITY TOTALS:</b>	<b>804,515</b>	<b>1,526,575</b>	<b>52,303</b>	<b>2,730,000</b>	<b>5,113,393</b>	11,788,538

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year progress by unit  
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members  
 NOTES: Gifts do not include pledge payments.  
 Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.  
 Gifts-in-kind do not include service or noncharitable gifts-in-kind.  
 Printed on 2024-11-18

## Annual Fund Report July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

COLLEGE/UNIT	TOTAL PLEDGE AMT	PREV FY PLEDGE AMT	AVERAGE PLEDGE AMT	PLEDGES PAID	OUTRIGHT GIFTS	*TOTAL RECEIVED	*PREV FY RECEIVED
CAS	7,835	7,205	112	3,688	18,230	21,918	76,635
CBT	7,550	18,005	145	1,792	12,615	14,407	111,876
COEHS	5,330	4,560	95	1,920	30,123	32,043	54,643
COFAC	11,259	15,992	417	1,579	45,724	47,303	134,538
ATHLETICS	52,533	23,616	4,378	12,631	111,805	124,436	524,777
STUDENT SUCCESS	1,929	5,316	161	758	6,713	7,471	94,046
LIBRARY	454	134	76	131	1,505	1,636	25,064
HONORS	0	0	0	0	10	10	275
GLOBAL STUDIES	0	2,590	0	0	30	30	2,120
QC	2,120	1,180	1,060	30	134	164	3,026
ALUMNI	1,650	4,105	83	800	9,207	10,007	26,699
BGS	1,000	1,700	1,000	1,000	260	1,260	4,150
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	11,240	17,318	204	4,669	42,806	47,475	67,972
TRI-STATES RADIO	139,003	135,291	319	44,174	57,465	101,639	309,874
WQPT	4,834	10,018	146	1,080	124,863	125,943	635,062
OTHER	17,749	21,955	934	16,259	10,095	26,354	80,239
<b>Total</b>	<b>264,486</b>	<b>268,985</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>90,511</b>	<b>471,585</b>	<b>562,095</b>	<b>2,150,996</b>

**\*\*Total Annual Fund: \$736,071**

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year Annual Fund totals by Unit; includes Phonathon and President's Scholarship totals.  
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members.  
 NOTES:  
 \*Total Received equals Income (Pledges Paid + Cash).  
 \*\*Total Annual Fund equals sum of Pledges and Cash.  
 Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.  
 Printed on 2024-11-18

## Phonathon Report July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

COLLEGE/UNIT	TOTAL PLEDGE AMT	PREV FY PLEDGE AMT	AVERAGE PLEDGE AMT	PLEDGES PAID	OUTRIGHT GIFTS	*TOTAL RECEIVED	*PREV FY RECEIVED
CAS	6,315	5,685	96	3,135	250	3,385	3,855
CBT	5,925	11,785	121	800	0	800	6,335
COEHS	4,190	3,240	78	1,495	50	1,545	1,955
COFAC	375	1,400	54	75	0	75	980
ATHLETICS	1,783	1,640	255	500	0	500	190
STUDENT SUCCESS	300	1,505	75	150	0	150	880
LIBRARY	345	25	69	95	0	95	55
HONORS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLOBAL STUDIES	0	2,590	0	0	0	0	345
QC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALUMNI	1,600	3,635	84	750	100	850	4,260
BGS	1,000	1,700	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	1,115
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	8,740	14,860	165	2,450	240	2,690	18,730
TRI-STATES RADIO	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
WQPT	100	0	100	0	0	0	0
OTHER	640	2,566	53	225	0	225	1,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,313</b>	<b>50,681</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>10,675</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>11,315</b>	<b>40,505</b>

**\*\*Total Phonathon: \$31,953**

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year Phonathon totals by Unit.

AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members.

NOTES:

\*Total Received equals Income (Pledges Paid + Cash).

\*\*Total Phonathon equals sum of Pledges and Cash.

Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.

Printed on 2024-11-18



# *The Campaign for* **WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

## **Advancement & Alumni Relations Updates**

### **Advancement – For the W Update**

We are introducing two new **For the W** fundraising initiatives: WIU’s version of *Flip that Classroom* and Program Excellence Endowments. Our *Flip that Classroom* project is a capital project to update classrooms on the Macomb campus – fresh paint, carpet squares, and new furniture. Our initial goal is flipping ten donor-funded classrooms, with the WIU Foundation matching each flip, up to \$250,000.

Our second initiative is creating Excellence Fund Endowments supporting a variety of academic and other programs at WIU. Endowments are a permanent source of funding ensuring resources for each excellence fund program in perpetuity. These funds are set up to allow for the greatest flexibility in meeting the needs of the program(s) under the discretion of the program advisor, program chair, and academic dean.

Following are updates on **For the W** initiatives:

- The Goldfarb Center for Performing Arts has raised \$2,900,000 in outright gifts and pledges (+\$860,018).
- The Finance & Commodities Trading Lab has raised \$355,000 in outright gifts and pledges, toward its goal of \$600,000 (+\$43,583).
- *Flip that Classroom* has its first confirmed donor-funded classroom. Additionally, we have received a \$40,000 outright gift to improve common areas in Waggoner Hall, and a \$100,000 verbal commitment for the renovation of music practice rooms, in Browne Hall.
- Three Excellence Fund Endowments have been established in LEJA, WIU Retention Initiatives, and Theatre & Dance.
- We added three new endowed scholarships raising the endowed scholarship total for the campaign to 49.
- We have finalized a \$3M estate gift from a retired WIU faculty member and his wife, creating endowed scholarships in CBT and COEHS. They will begin funding them this year with an annual RMD.

On the horizon:

- Planning for the renovation of nursing simulation labs for the Macomb campus and increasing support for nursing scholarships and operating funds.

## Annual Giving

FY25 Annual Fund efforts continue in the second quarter with gift renewal solicitation letters for programs and colleges as part of the comprehensive solicitation schedule that runs throughout the fiscal year. To date, more than \$80,000 has been raised through direct mail campaigns.

Online giving is trending up with \$164,147 raised from more than 1,100 donors. These gifts are driven by crowdfunding campaigns, online giving events like the Goodest Boy Challenge, email solicitations, and QR codes included in the direct mail outreach.

The WIU Engagement Center (formerly Phonathon) employs 20 students from each of our four colleges and continues to serve as the second touchpoint for donors in the comprehensive annual fund effort. Engagement Center students led by Asst. Director of Annual Giving – Jenni Lopez - has secured over \$31,000 in pledged support for 31 campus areas and initiatives.

The WIU Engagement Center students also texted more than 1,100 alumni in hurricane-affected areas of Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee with “Wellness Check” texts on behalf of Western. The response to these texts was overwhelmingly positive, with many alumni expressing appreciation for the outreach.

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, the number of alumni donors stands at 2,492, up 268 donors from this time last year. Our donor retention rate is 33.73% (up 1.33 from 01-NOV-23), and our current overall alumni giving rate stands at 1.82% (up .19 from last year at this time.)

The second annual Softball hit-a-thon was held in October, raising more than \$20,600 for team travel, meal, and lodging expenses. This is a significant increase over last year’s inaugural Hit-a-Thon which raised \$7,782.

In November, the WIU Foundation unveiled the new WIU Founders Scholarship. The initial funding for this scholarship fund came from the Goodest Boy Challenge, a cross-state fundraising competition held between WIU and Northern Illinois University in August 2024. More than \$20,000 was raised from more than 500 donors. On November 15, ten students were surprised with a scholarship of \$1,899 to create the inaugural WIU Founders Scholarship cohort.

WIU is participating in GivingTuesday, a global day of philanthropy, on December 3. Friends and alumni are encouraged to contribute to many different campus areas and initiatives, including Athletics, Academic Excellence Funds, Classroom and Facility Enhancements, and Scholarship support. More than \$15,000 in matching and challenge funds have been pledged by donors to drive the day’s success.

## Donor Relations & Stewardship

It has been a busy fall for donor relations and stewardship activities. A key focus continues to be sharing the impact of our donor stories including highlighting significant investments in university-wide retention, the Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, and the School of Nursing.

In November, the first qualifying donors were welcomed into the new Sherman Circle, which recognized donors who support WIU through contributions of \$1,000 or more each calendar year. The inaugural group includes more than 650 donors from 38 states who have met the \$1,000 threshold so far in 2024.

This new recognition program was developed by the Donor Relations and Annual Giving staff. Materials were produced fully in-house, with staff from University Communications & Marketing developing the pin design and print materials, Web Services designing the website, University Printing & Mailing Center facilitating the out-going mailing, and the Advancement student employee team preparing the welcome packets.

In November, Donor Relations and University Television completed a new video project for first-time donors. Previously, when a donor made their first gift to the WIU Foundation, they received a postcard in the mailing thanking them for their first contribution. Now, first-time donors will be emailed a video highlighting three students' stories and how their experiences have been impacted by donor generosity. This will provide a more satisfying, elevated experience for donors. We will also be able to use the video to track donor behavior, as we will be able to track which donors open the email, view the video, and take any further actions.

The FY24 benefactor report project is almost completed. The benefactor reports have been completely redesigned for easier readability. The accompanying materials have been expanded to showcase a more thorough explanation of how donor support has impacted the university. Donors now will receive a universal multi-page endowment report piece, enveloping the custom report for the donor's specific fund. For donors whose endowments fund scholarships, they will also receive impact pieces regarding scholarship support and information about the students who benefitted from their fund.

On November 2nd, Donor Relations coordinated and hosted the 13th annual Fallen Soldiers 5K, which drew more than 450 participants and raised more than \$22,000 for the Fallen Soldiers Scholarship Fund. The 13-year fundraising total is more than \$237,000.

### **Alumni Relations**

This fall, we focused on engagement starting in the West Central Illinois region with alumni events in Burlington, Quincy, Warsaw, Monmouth, Rushville, Avon, Galesburg, and Carthage in September and October. The week of November 18<sup>th</sup> featured our Leathernecks Take Over Chicago events, with events in five suburbs and the finale in Downtown Chicago.

We will finish the calendar year with events in the Quad Cities, Springfield, and Bloomington in early December. These are opportunities for alumni to connect, meet Clare and others from WIU, and receive updates on the great things happening at Western. We are also excited to be welcoming prospective students and their families to these events.

Other highlights from this fall include Homecoming weekend and an outstanding Town & Gown Celebration with almost 200 attendees. Congratulations again to this year's award recipients:

- Town & Gown Award - Jock Hedblade `83
- Honorary Alumni Award - Larry Balsamo, retired WIU History Chair Emeritus

The alumni staff is preparing for a busy winter and spring travel schedule including stops in Florida, Alabama, Arizona, and Colorado. Additional regional events are in the works for St. Louis, Peoria, and Champaign.

Mark your calendar for May 23<sup>rd</sup>, when the WIU Wind Ensemble will be playing at Carnegie Hall. We are planning an alumni and friends pre-show reception. COFAC has travel packages available, contact Amy Spelman for more details.

Finally, we are looking forward to celebrating our Alumni Achievement Award recipients award-winning Broadway actress Melody Betts `09 MFA and recently retired NTN Bower VP & Treasurer, Steve Hensley `83 MBA `90 at our December commencement activities.

Updated 11/20/2024



# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

Report No. 24.12/7 -- University Marketing and Communications



## Goals

- 1 Provide value to WIU's audiences
- 2 Differentiate from the competition
- 3 Highlight Western's unique, high-demand programs
- 4 Nurture leads through the Admissions funnel to help drive enrollment
- 5 Retarget WIU's audience to increase the frequency of visibility
- 6 Generate positive feelings about Western through continued brand awareness efforts
- 7 Examine trends and analytics to make data-driven decisions





# Overview

## Digital

- Paid digital advertising (Carnegie)
- Lead generators
- Strategic organic social media

## Traditional

- Brand awareness via billboards & banners; broadcast television; radio; community relations; print
- Layering some traditional media with digital efforts with specific CTAs for campaigns aligning with Enrollment goals

## Community Engagement & Outreach

- Experiential - experiencing the WIU brand
- Strategic sponsorships



**1.4 Million**  
According to ENL\*, the average online program marketing budget (not including any overhead costs) is in excess of one million dollars. Public institutions reported an average of \$1.04 million. (WIU's total overall marketing budget is less than \$1 million)  
\*Buffalo Noel Levitz

# Campaign Launch



# Commercial Update



## Digital Marketing

Digital advertising is an extremely effective way to **hyper-target** students in their college search.

Google Search, followed by Facebook and YouTube, was where students were clicking on ads the most. The actions most taken by students after clicking were looking at information on a website, filling out a form to have information sent by postal mail or watching a video.

\*Ruffalo Noel Levitz

# Objectives

- 1 Generate new leads
- 2 Increase exposure and interest beyond the organic
- 3 Drive traffic to WIU's website
- 4 Encourage actions (visit, apply etc.)
- 5 Strengthen brand awareness
- 6 Track conversions



# Digital Plan

## Audiences

The main audiences for paid digital are Prospects, Inquiries, Transfers, and Admitted.

- IP Targeting
- Mobile Footprint Targeting
- PPC - Google Ad
- YouTube Ads
- Snapchat Ads
- TikTok Ads
- Facebook/Instagram/ Stories Ads
- Display
- SEO
- Analytics
- Carnegie Clarity™
- Data Tagging (Dart Tagging)



# Highlights

**YOUR POTENTIAL UNLEASHED**

Apply Now

Western Illinois University

**Go for it TRANSFER**

Apply Now

Up to **\$6K** ANNUAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

APPLY NOW

Western Illinois University

**7+ Million Impressions**

---

**55K Impressions**

---

**1,266 Conversions**

---

**510 Application Submissions**

July 2024-Nov. 14, 2024

Sponsored

wiu.edu  
http://www.wiu.edu

**Transfer to WIU**

Transfer to a College in IL — Our Guaranteed Admission Program Means You Can Secure Your Future at a Top-Quality School. With the Westerns Way Initiative, You Could Pay \$0 in Tuition...

**Transfer Admissions**

Apply up to a year in advance. Explore our application checklist.

**Transfer Your Credits**

**Transfer Scholarships**

**Student Life**

Sponsored

wiu.edu  
http://www.wiu.edu

**Western Illinois University | WIU Undergraduate Admissions**

Merit-Based Scholarships, Small Classes, Expert Faculty—WIU Has What You Need To Thrive. Get Involved with 225 Student Organizations, Multicultural Center Houses & More at WIU. Online Programs. Small Class Sizes. 225...

# Clarity

**52,448 Users**

---

**730 Application Accounts**

---

**319 Application Submissions**

---

**422 RFI Form Submissions**

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**315 Registered for Event/Tour**

July 2024-Nov. 14, 2024

**91% Increase**  
Clarity users are up 91%

Western Illinois University

Get Involved!

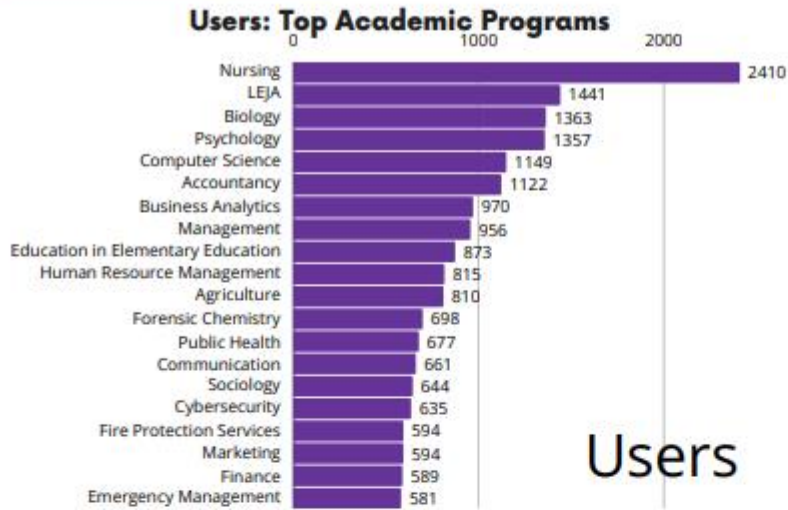
150+ groups and programs to join. Employment opportunities. Plus and activities. There's always something to do at WIU.

Connect With WIU

Curious about what life is like for the Leathernecks? Whether you're a first-year freshman or a prospective transfer student, we're ready to show you around!

Choose a Visit Date

# Clarity



Users



# SEO

# Copywriting

**Scope: 24 priority webpages**

With the goal of getting **WIU to show up in Google for the most searched-for keywords and phrases**, Carnegie's team optimize both frontend and backend content (metadata) for priority pages on wiu.edu. These changes are intended to enhance organic search visibility and user experience, which in turn drives all marketing efforts.

Content strategy **may involve rewriting existing pages or writing new pages from scratch**. A set number of pages of content will be delivered monthly, along with metadata, a keyword list, header tags, and internal link recommendations. Carnegie will **track the ranking position in Google for keywords we optimize for and report on performance once pages have been implemented long enough for search engines to recognize the changes**. A comprehensive dashboard shows organic clicks and impressions, position rankings nationally and locally, and organic traffic metrics.

**WIU Organic Search Traffic**  
We rank last in monthly organic search traffic when compared to: EIU, SIU, UIIC, UIUC, UIS and Bradley

**New Project**

# UX

## Assesment

### Scope: 15 priority webpages

Designed for higher education institutions seeking direction **how to make their websites more user-friendly for prospective students.**

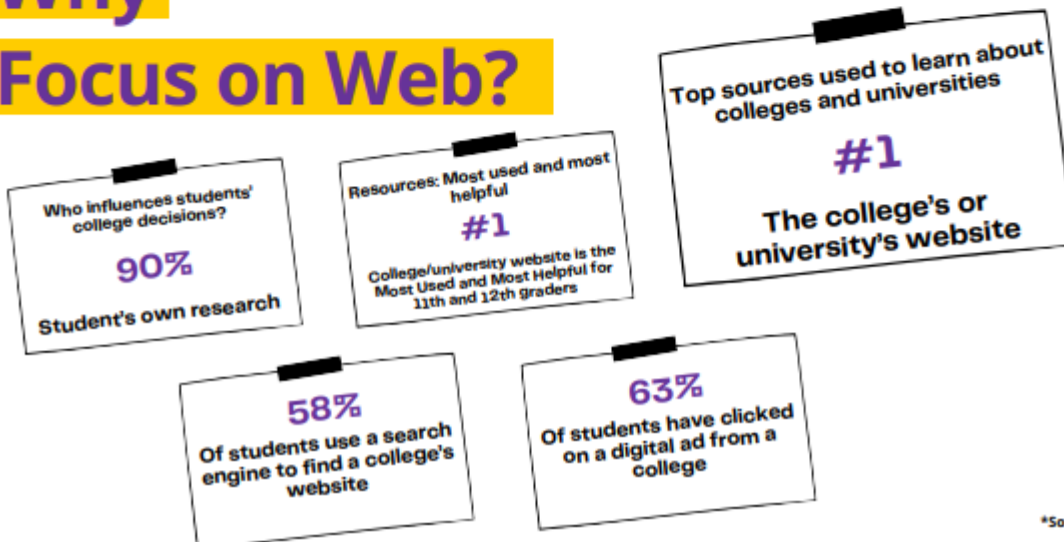
Carnegie assesses if content meets web best practices while also providing engaging and relevant information to intended audience. **This includes not just the copywriting, but also the user interface design, typographic and visual hierarchies, featured photography and video choices, and overall ease of use.**

From a more technical lens, they will evaluate the functionality across viewpoint sizes and identify barriers to conversion. To complement this, Carnegie will conduct a **30-day heat map and scroll depth study for each page in scope to appraise how wiu.edu visitors currently interact with each page and identify opportunities for improvement.**



## Why

## Focus on Web?



\*Source: RNL

# 125th Anniversary



# 125th Anniversary

## 125th Celebration Stories

A series of stories about Western Illinois University students, alumni, and community members, highlighting their experiences during our 125th anniversary celebration.

### Achievements to Date:

- 40+ stories published, with nearly 100 submissions received.
- The campaign has received over 1,800 likes on WIU's Facebook platforms and 3,600+ likes on Instagram.
- Features are posted three times weekly.
- Future Goals: To meet the campaign's August 2025 deadline, we aim to collect an additional 25+ stories.



# Social Media

## New Organic Campaigns

### Organization of the Week

Runs on Facebook and Instagram  
Avg. 8,500 Reach

### Student Service Saturdays

Runs on Facebook and Instagram  
Avg. 4,200 Reach



## Just Hired" Campaign:

Launched in May 2024, this initiative highlights recent alumni and those who graduated within the past few years. Stories are written by our team and then shared on social media, our website, and the media.

### Achievements to Date:

- Over 25 features were published, with more than 40 submissions received to sustain the campaign's momentum.
- The campaign has garnered 1,700+ likes on WIU's Facebook platforms alone.
- Features are posted weekly.
- Ongoing Efforts: Submissions are actively encouraged to ensure continued success.



# PR Highlights

### Event Promotions:

- "Leathernecks Taking Over Chicago" in November 2024
- WIU's Military Appreciation Week
- Various events are hosted at the Multicultural Center
- 125 Founders' Day Celebration

### Student and Faculty Features:

- School of Agriculture's livestock judging team achievements
- Multiple transfer student features during National Transfer Student Week
- Lincoln Academy Student Laureate
- Major Program and Initiative Highlights:
  - Launch of the new Artificial Intelligence minor
  - The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) introduced the Small Business Exit Planning Toolkit, which received media attention
  - WIU's GIS Center completed 911 Systems mapping for all Illinois counties

### Awards and Recognitions:

- WIU was named an "ALL IN Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting"
- Kappa Sigma Chapter received a national service award
- Ranked among the "Top 100 Best Colleges for Music" and recognized as a "Best for Vets" college in 2024
- OPS achieved ILEAP reaccreditation
- SHRM received the Merit Award for 2023-24
- WIU earned the prestigious National HEED Award for diversity efforts

### Quad Cities Milestones:

- The launch of the Quad Cities Manufacturing Innovation (QCMi) initiative ties into the upcoming Innovation Campus
- The Early Learning Center, Rocky's Play Space, is underway, hiring staff, and has recently hosted many Birth to Five workshops, with more than 30 families in attendance

### Record-Breaking Events:

- Future Teachers Day 2024 saw record attendance of 224 students
- The WIU-QC campus hosted nearly 4,000 children for Imagination Station in October 2024



**THANK YOU**

**Questions?**  
[marketing@wiu.edu](mailto:marketing@wiu.edu)

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

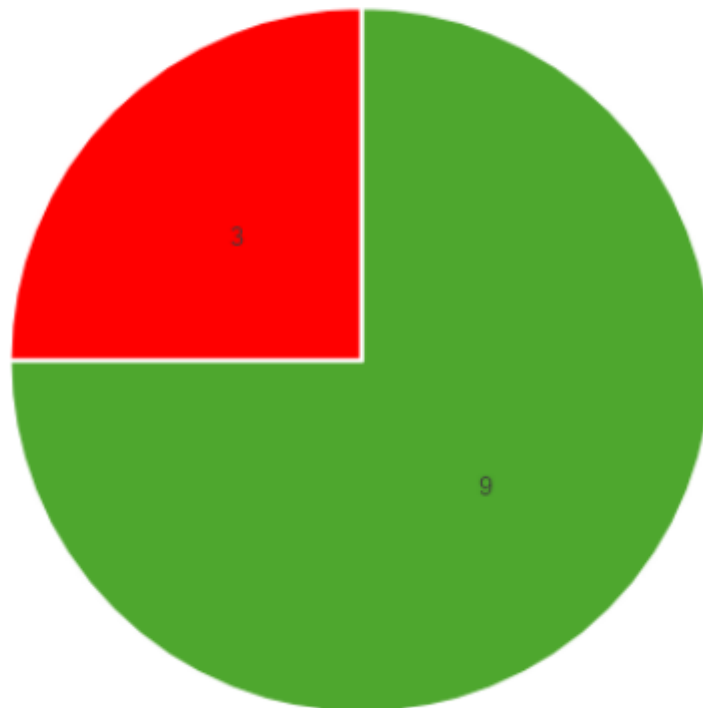
Report No. 24.12/8 -- Committee to Assess Presidential Appointment – Findings  
Report

## **Committee to Assess Presidential Appointment**

**Committee Chair, Trustee Derek Wise**

November 22, 2024

Committee Results



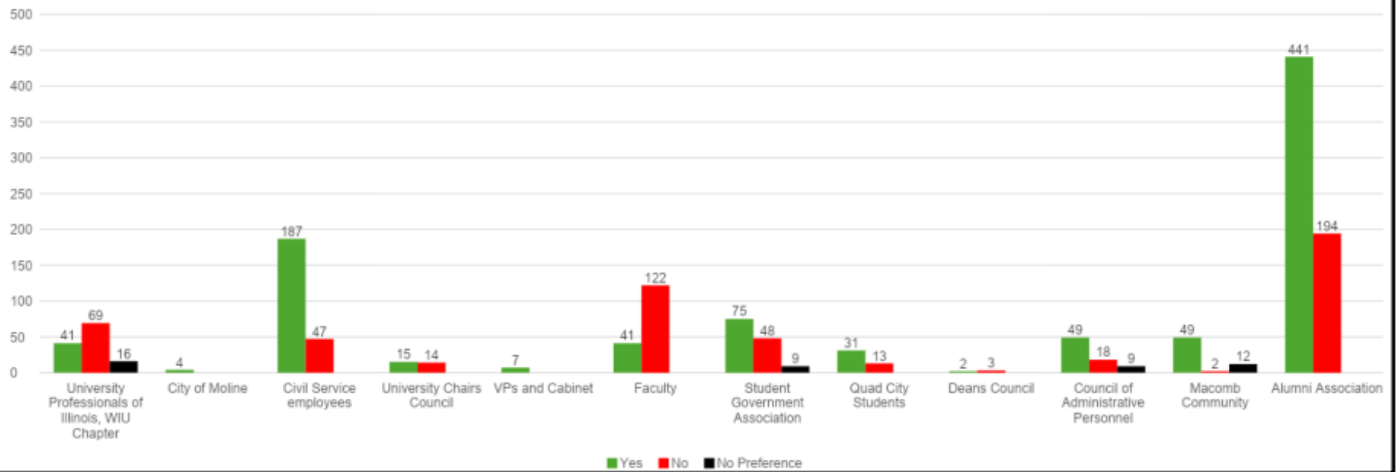
■ Yes ■ No

Question asked: Should the WIU Board of Trustees forgo a search and appoint the current interim president as permanent president of Western Illinois University?

## Committee Member Responses

Group	Yes	No	No Preference	Result	Total Polled	Responses	Reported By
University Professionals of Illinois, WIU Chapter	41	69	16	No	361	126	Merrill Cole
City of Moline	4	0	0	Yes	11	4	Bob Vitas
Civil Service employees	187	47	0	Yes	600	234	Natalie Divan
University Chairs Council	15	14	0	Yes	32	29	Peter Jorgensen
VPs and Cabinet	7	0	0	Yes	7	7	Clare Thompson
Faculty Senate	41	122	0	No	363	163	Jeremy Robinett
Student Government Association	75	48	9	Yes	3000	132	Emir Miranda
Quad City Students	31	13	0	Yes	721	44	Harrison Dehnert
Deans Council	2	3	0	No	7	5	Billy Clow
Council of Administrative Personnel	49	18	9	Yes	121	76	Holly Sutton
Macomb Community	49	2	12	Yes	63	63	Mayor Inman
Alumni Association	441	194	0	Yes	40000	635	Eldon Brown
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>Yes</b>			
By Committee	9	3		Yes			

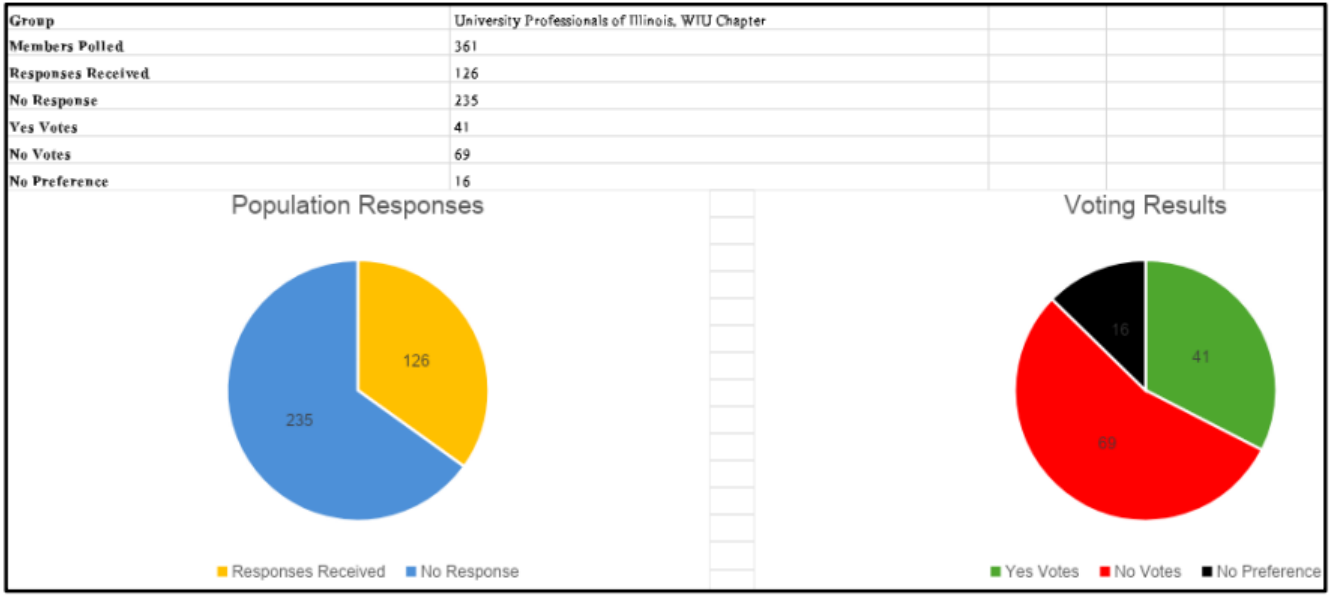
Overall Committee Votes



## Individual Member Responses

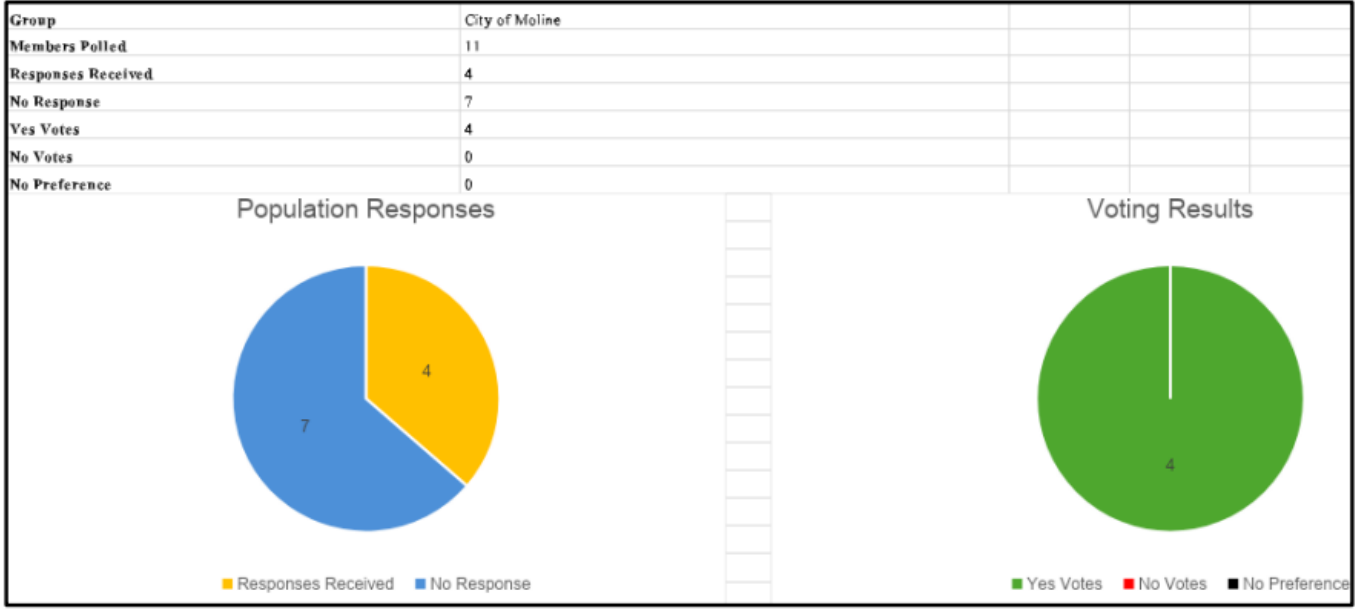
### United Professionals of Illinois, Local 4100

Reported by: Merrill Cole



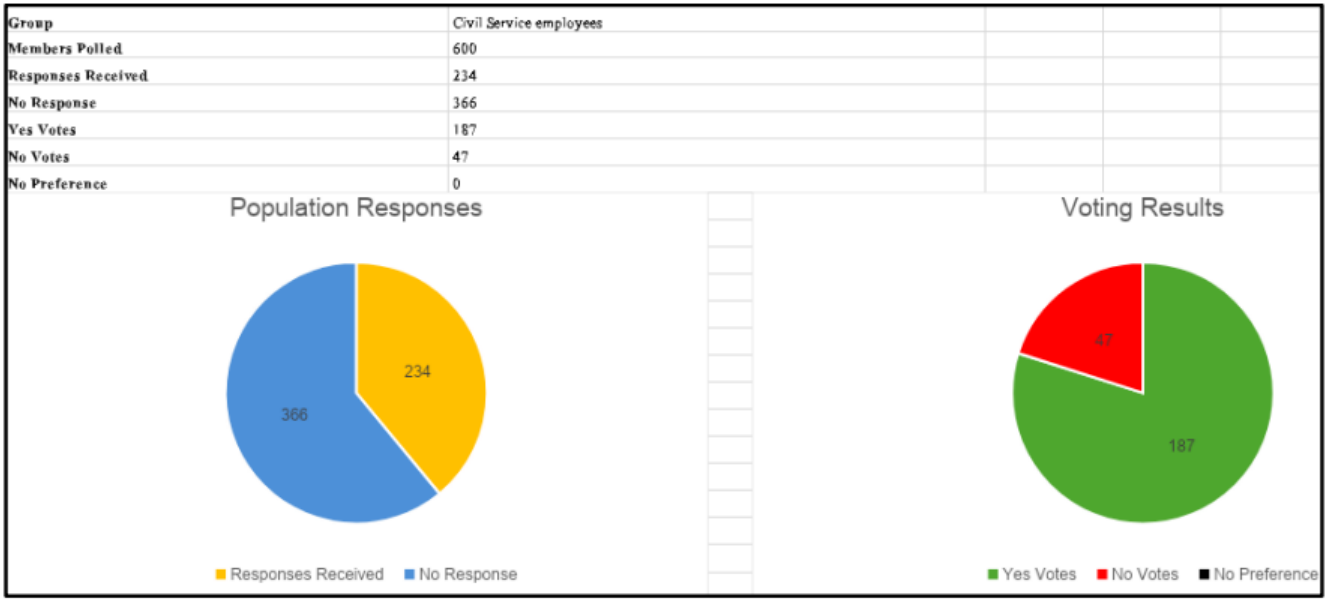
# City of Moline

Reported by: City Administrator Bob Vitas



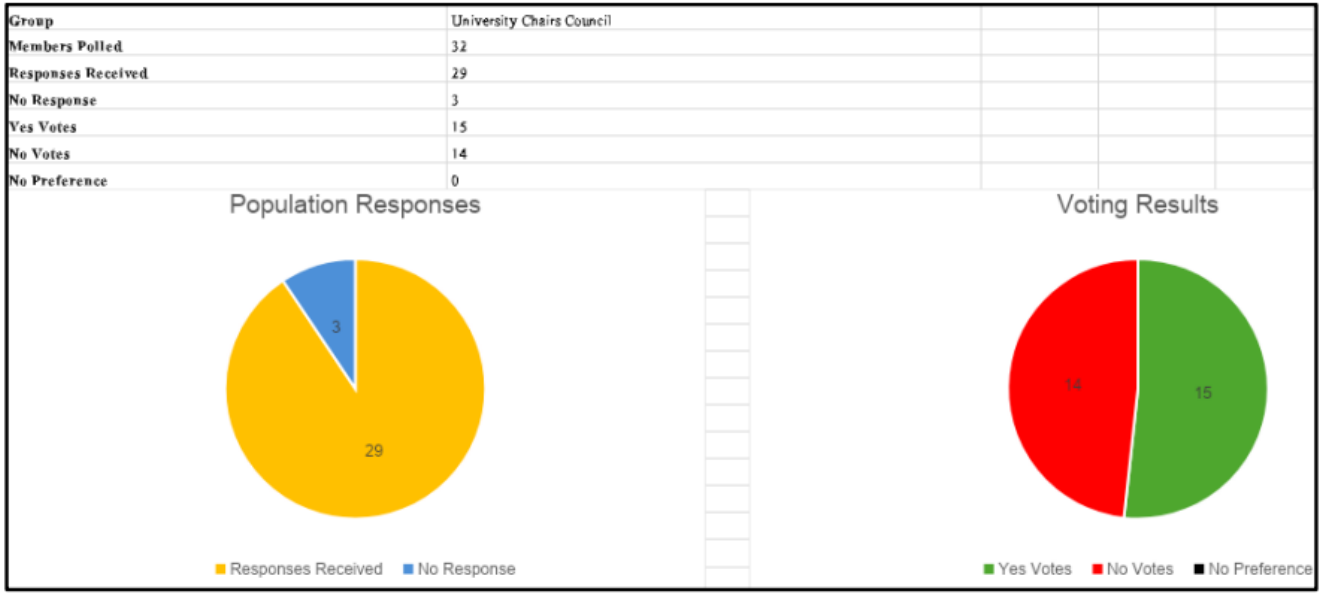
# Civil Service Employees Council

Reported by: Natalie Divan



# University Chairs Council

Reported by: Peter Jorgensen

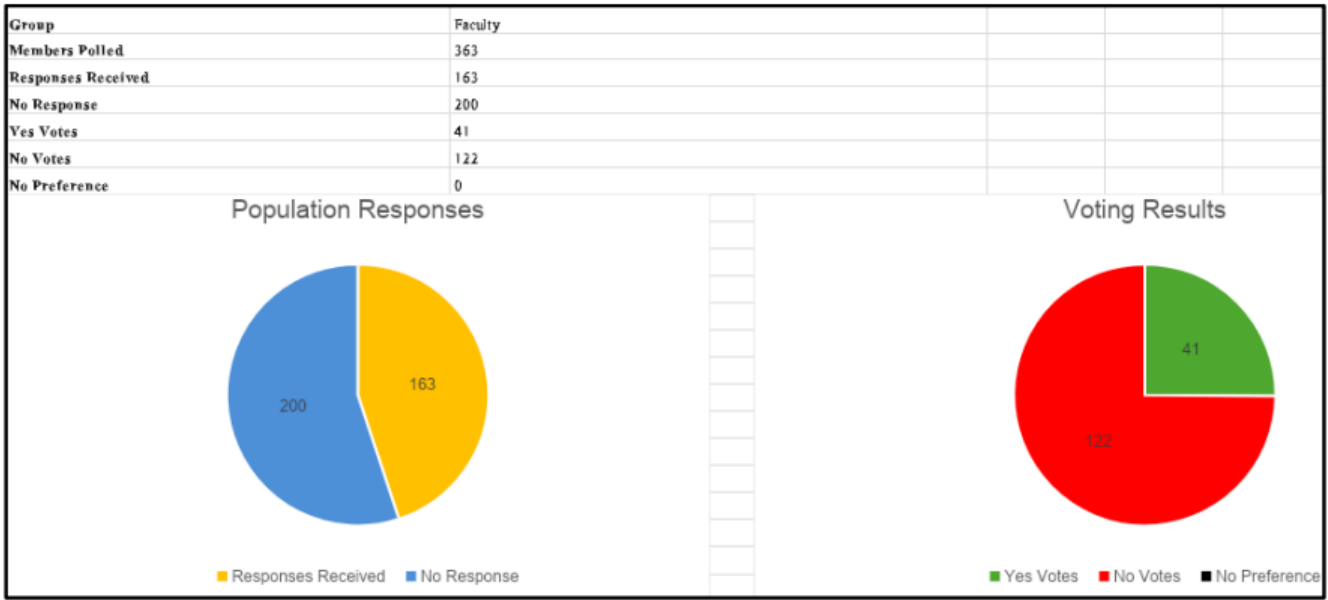






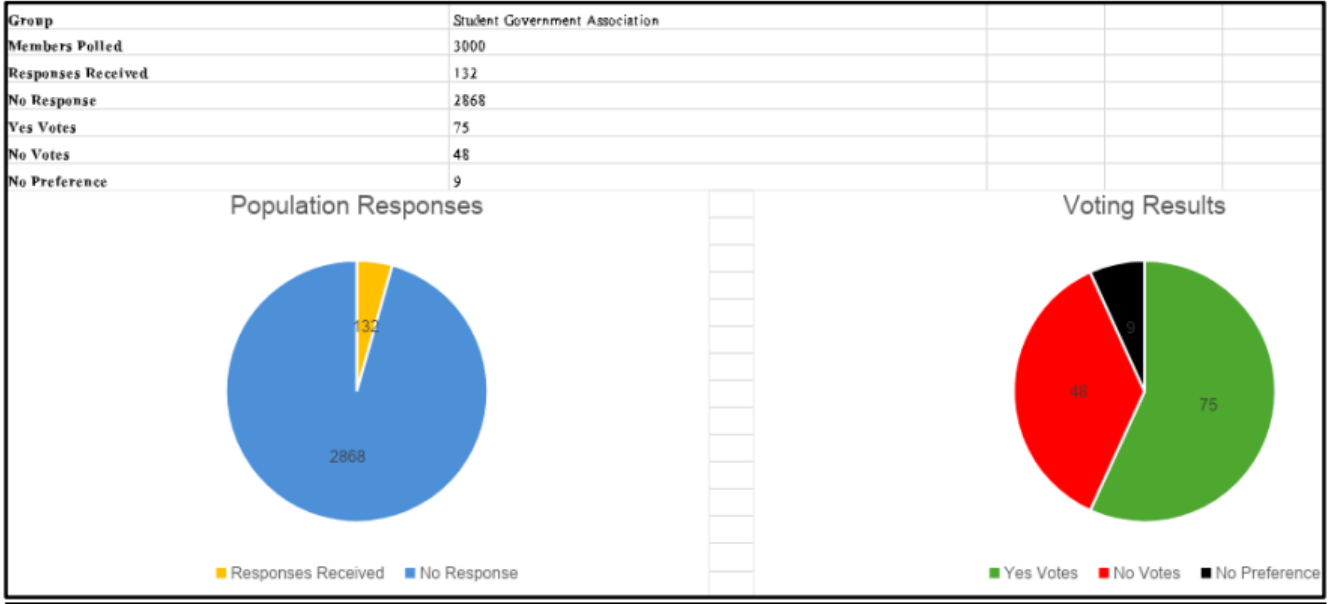
# Faculty Senate

Reported by: Jeremy Robinett



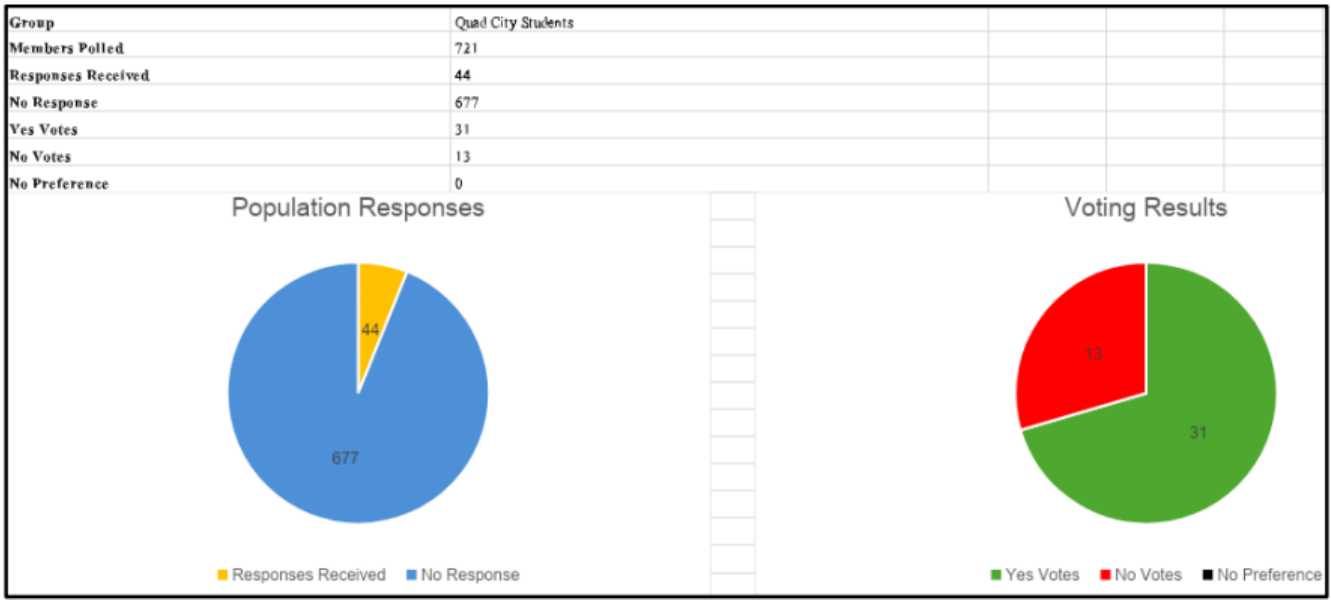
## Student Government Association, Macomb

Reported by: Emir Miranda



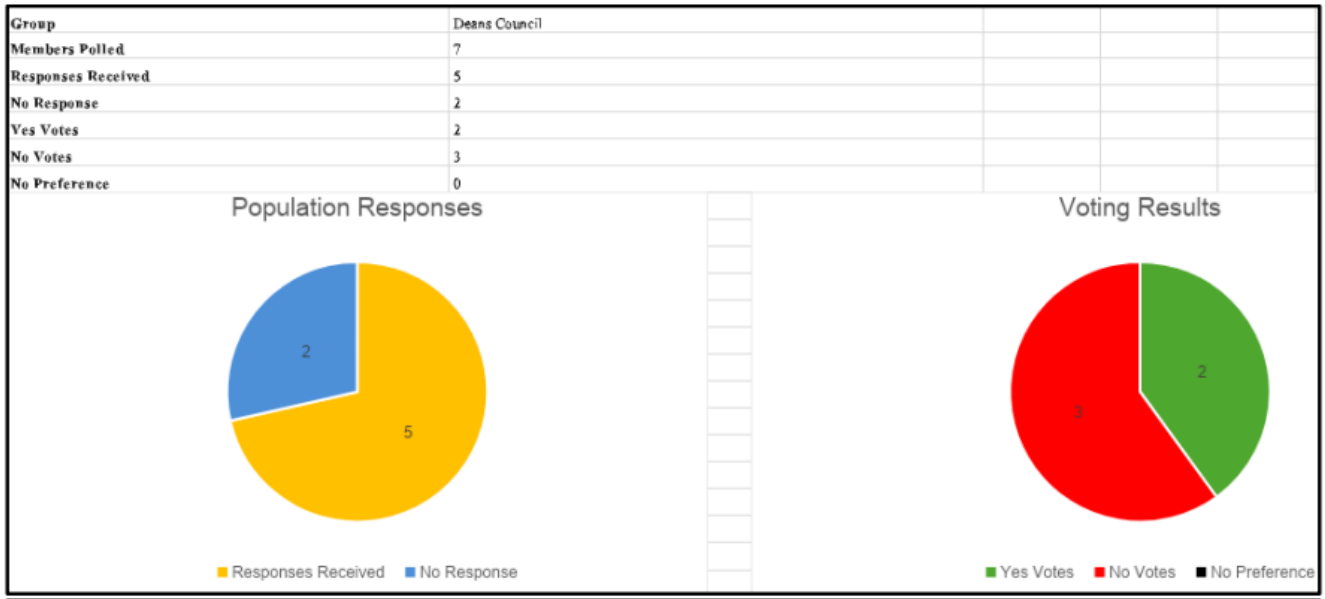
## Student Government Association, Quad Cities

Reported by: Harrison Dehnert



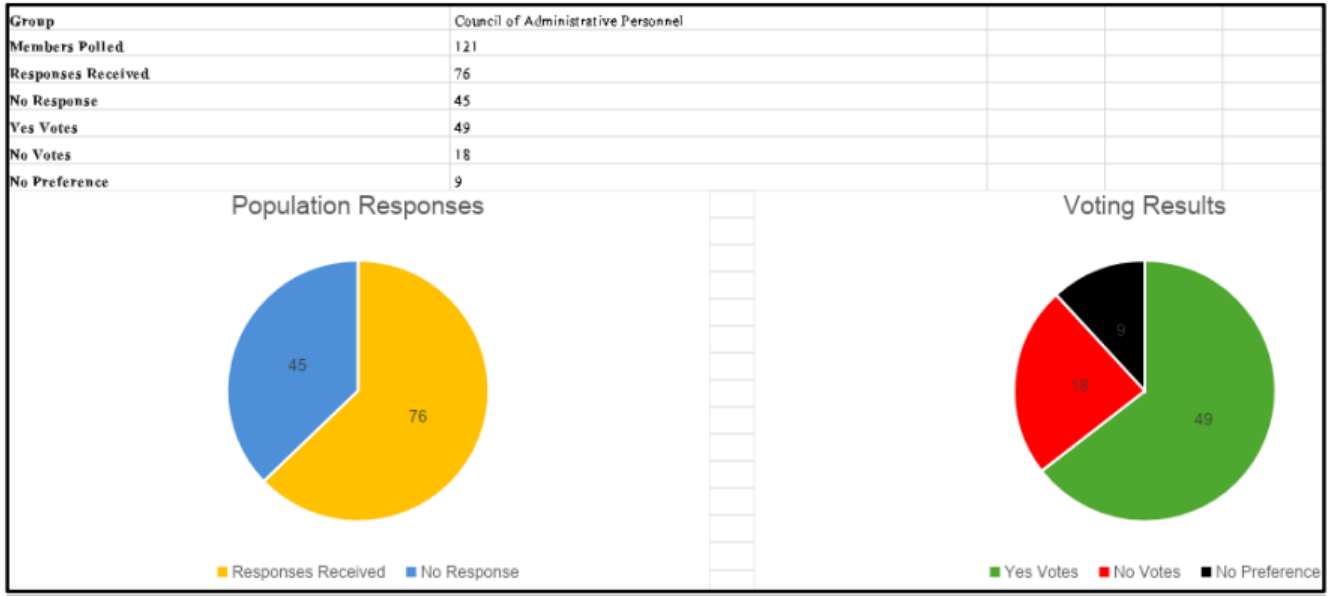
## Deans Council

Reported by: Billy Clow



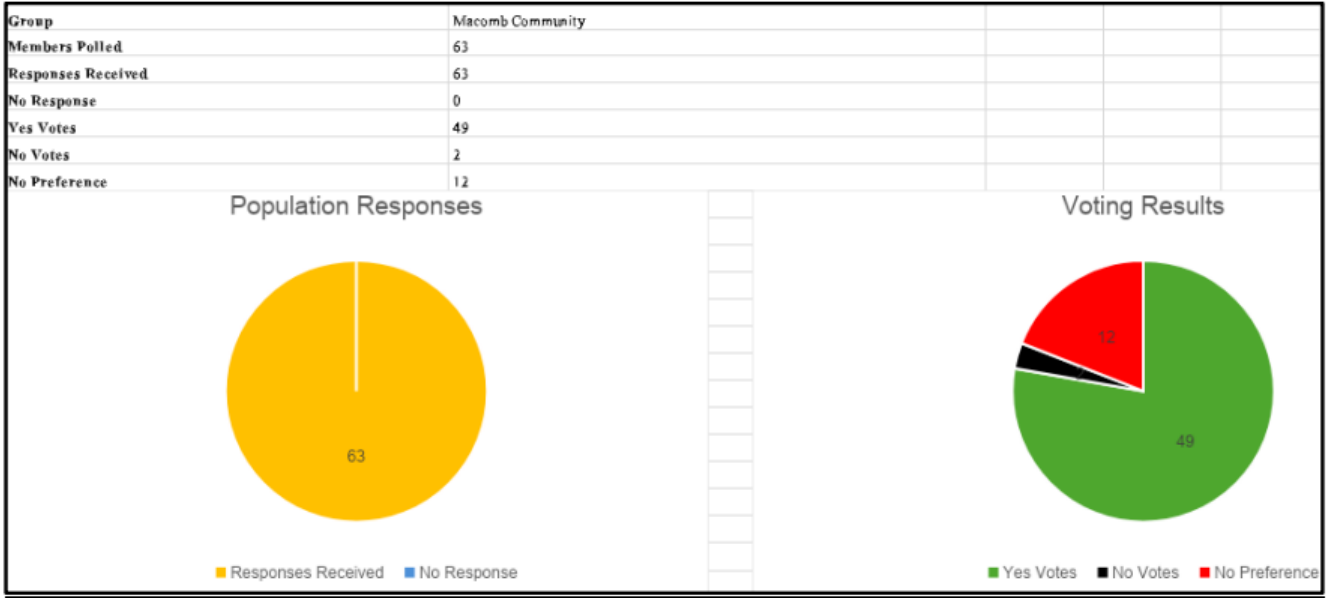
## Council of Administrative Personnel

Reported by: Holly Sutton



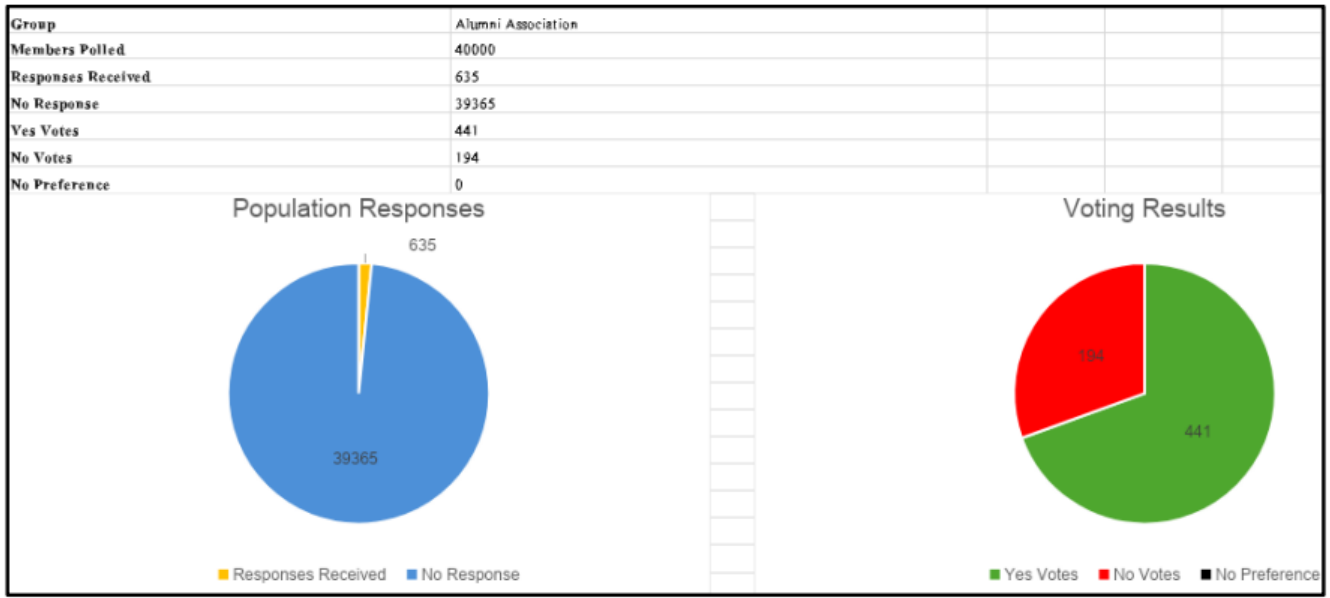
# City of Macomb

Reported by: Mayor Inman

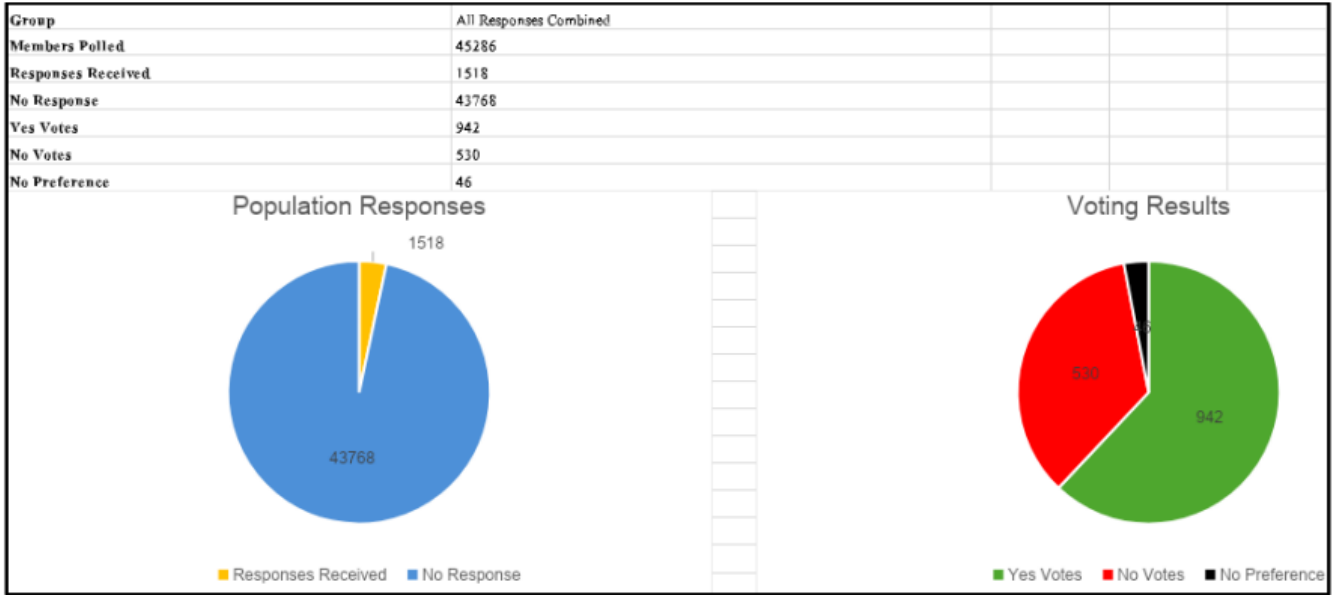


# WIU Alumni Association

Reported by: Eldon Brown



## All Individual Votes Combined





# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/1 -- Appointing the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Western Illinois University

Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kristi Mindrup has served as the interim president of Western Illinois University (WIU) with distinction since April 1, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Western Illinois Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring sound leadership for Western Illinois University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the results compiled by an advisory committee convened to consult campus and community constituencies about the permanent appointment of Dr. Mindrup as president;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board appoints Dr. Mindrup to a permanent term as president, effective immediately and expiring on June 30, 2027, and authorizes the Chair of the Board to negotiate a Presidential Employment Agreement to be ratified by the Board no later than their regularly scheduled meeting in March 2025.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/2 -- Initiating Exploratory Actions for a Presidential Search

Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Western Illinois Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring sound, long-term leadership for Western Illinois University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the results compiled by an advisory committee convened to consult campus and community constituencies about the permanent appointment of Dr. Mindrup as president; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to conduct a nationwide search to identify the best candidate to serve as the university's long-term president; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board intends to select one of its own members to initiate exploratory actions for a presidential search, including assessing the feasibility of employing a search firm and identifying potential representatives to serve on a Presidential Selection Committee;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees selects \_\_\_\_\_ to report back any such findings no later than the Board's regularly scheduled meeting in March 2025.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/3 -- Purchases of \$500,000 and Over

Resolution:

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has a need for athletic apparel and gear for Athletics; and,

**WHEREAS** the above-mentioned project has been administered in accordance with the Illinois Procurement Code and all other pertinent statutes and rules;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the contracting for  
**Athletic Apparel & Sponsorship**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Athletic apparel and gear to be ordered as needed by Athletics for a five-year contract (FY26-FY30) with five optional one-year renewals. Amount is estimated and includes renewal amounts.

**COST:** Estimated cost for 10 years: \$4,000,000

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR:** BSN Sports LLC – Adidas; Farmers Branch, TX

**FUND SOURCE:** Local & Foundation

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS:**

BSN Sports LLC – Adidas; Farmers Branch, TX	(1023.92/1120 points)
BSN Sports LLC – Nike; Farmers Branch, TX	(1017.13/1120 points)
Game One; Swanton, OH	(951.77/1120 points)

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/4 -- Disposition of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Audio Recordings

Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University must comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 *et seq.*; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to conduct a periodic review of their closed-session written minutes on at least a semi-annual basis to determine what parts of the minutes should be made available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the closed-session written minutes of September 27, 2018; October 3, 2019; December 12, 2019; December 13, 2019; April 30, 2020; June 11, 2020; November 5, 2020; December 17, 2020; March 25, 2021; June 10, 2021; September 9, 2021; December 1, 2021; March 10, 2022; June 9, 2022; November 30, 2022; March 23, 2023; June 7, 2023; October 12, 2023; December 4, 2023; March 21, 2024, and June 3, 2024, to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to all or part of the minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.06(c) of the Open Meetings Act permits the Board of Trustees to approve the destruction of the verbatim record no less than 18 months after the completion of the meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has reviewed the verbatim record of the closed session held on March 23, 2023, to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists and whether to destroy the verbatim audio recording;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved as follows:

1. The Board has determined that the need for confidentiality of the closed-session written minutes dated September 27, 2018; October 3, 2019; December 12, 2019; December 13, 2019; April 30, 2020; June 11, 2020; November 5, 2020; December 17, 2020; March 25, 2021; June 10,

2021; September 9, 2021; December 1, 2021; March 10, 2022; June 9, 2022; November 30, 2022; March 23, 2023; June 7, 2023; October 12, 2023; December 4, 2023; March 21, 2024, and June 3, 2024, still exists and the written minutes shall be retained as confidential pending future review to determine their eligibility for release.

2. The verbatim audio recording of the closed-session meeting held on March 23, 2023, is approved for destruction.

The Board will review the closed-session written minutes and verbatim record on at least a semi-annual basis.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/5 -- New Audit Department Charter

Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Western Illinois University has a need to periodically review and present the Internal Auditing Department Charter to University management and the Board of Trustees for compliance with the *State of Illinois Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act* and the *Institute of Internal Auditors Professional Practices Framework® (IPFF®)*. The (IPFF®) is composed of the three components: *Global Internal Auditing Standards, Topical Requirements; and, Global Guidance*.

**WHEREAS**, the WIU Internal Auditing Department Charter has been updated with significant changes to meet the requirements of the new Global Internal Auditing Standards and includes the purpose, relative mandates, organizational structure and authority of the department; statement of professional practice; statement of independence, and objectivity; departmental objectives and responsibilities; the types of internal audit services provided; and the duties and responsibilities of the department; and, interaction with management and the Board of Trustees.

**WHEREAS**, the Internal Auditing Charter includes the primary responsibilities of the Internal Audit Department, which includes: developing a two-year risk based audit schedule that is updated and approved annually; performing audit assurance engagements, consulting services, special investigations, and follow-up reviews on audit findings issued; reporting material results of audits, reviews, and investigations to University management and the Audit Committee; and providing an annual summary of the Internal Auditing Department activities to the University President and Audit Committee by September 30<sup>th</sup> for the previous fiscal year:

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Internal Auditing Department Charter as presented.

# Western Illinois University Internal Auditing Department Charter

## Purpose

The purpose of the internal audit function is to strengthen Western Illinois University's and its related organizations' ability to create, protect, and sustain value by providing the Board of Trustee (BOT) Audit Committee and management with independent, risk-based, and objective assurance, advice, insight, and foresight.

The internal audit function enhances Western Illinois University's:

- Successful achievement of its objectives.
- Governance, risk management, and control processes.
- Decision-making and oversight.
- Reputation and credibility with its stakeholders.
- Ability to serve the public interest.

Western Illinois University's internal audit function is most effective when:

- Internal auditing is performed by competent professionals in conformance with The IIA's Global Internal Audit Standards™, which are set in the public interest.
- The internal audit function is independently positioned with direct accountability to the BOT through the Audit Committee.
- Internal auditors are free from undue influence and committed to making objective assessments.

## Mandate

The Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (30 ILCS 10/ Articles 1, 2 and 3) FCIAA) is the state legislation that mandates the internal audit activities of state agencies. It is the policy of the State of Illinois that the chief executive officer of every State agency is responsible for effectively and efficiently managing the agency and establishing and maintaining an effective system of internal control. Western Illinois University is a designated agency as defined in FCIAA. The President of the University, as the chief executive officer of Western Illinois University is responsible for the development and implementation of the program of Internal Auditing.

The university president along with the BOT Audit Committee have appointed and delegated a qualified Chief Internal Auditor with the responsibility of establishing guidelines which provide direction to the overall internal audit function in-line with the requirements of FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003).

In accordance with FCIAA Article 2, the State of Illinois Internal Audit Advisory Board has adopted the mandatory elements of The Institute of Internal Auditors' International Professional Practices framework, which are the Global Internal Audit Standards and Topical Requirements which all State auditors must adhere.

### ***Commitment to Adhering to the Global Internal Audit Standards***

On an annual basis, the chief audit executive will report to the BOT Audit Committee and the University's President the internal audit function's conformance with the Standards, as assessed through a quality assurance and improvement program.

# Western Illinois University

## Internal Auditing Department Charter

### ***Authority***

The internal audit function's authority is created by its direct reporting relationship to the President of Western Illinois University and the BOT through the Audit Committee. Such authority allows for unrestricted access to the President and the BOT Audit Committee.

The President and the BOT Audit Committee authorizes the internal audit function to:

- Have full and unrestricted access to all functions, data, records, information, physical property, and personnel pertinent to carrying out internal audit responsibilities. Internal auditors are accountable for confidentiality and safeguarding records and information.
- Allocate resources, set frequencies, select subjects, determine scopes of work, apply techniques, and issue communications to accomplish the function's objectives.
- Obtain assistance from the necessary personnel of and other specialized services from within or outside Western Illinois University or Western Illinois Foundation to complete internal audit services, as deemed necessary.

### ***Independence, Organizational Position, and Reporting Relationships***

The chief audit executive will be positioned at a level in the organization that enables internal audit services and responsibilities to be performed without interference from management, thereby establishing the independence of the internal audit function. The chief audit executive will report functionally to the BOT Audit Committee and administratively to the Western Illinois University president. This positioning provides the organizational authority and status to bring matters directly to senior management and escalate matters to the BOT Audit Committee, when necessary, without interference and supports the internal auditors' ability to maintain objectivity.

The chief audit executive will confirm to the BOT Audit Committee, at least annually, the organizational independence of the internal audit function. If the governance structure does not support organizational independence, the chief audit executive will document the characteristics of the governance structure limiting independence and any safeguards employed to achieve the principle of independence. The chief audit executive will disclose to the BOT Audit Committee any interference internal auditors encounter related to the scope, performance, or communication of internal audit work and results. The disclosure will include communicating the implications of such interference on the internal audit function's effectiveness and ability to fulfill its mandate.

### ***Changes to the Mandate and Charter***

Circumstances may justify a follow-up discussion between the chief audit executive, BOT Audit Committee, and senior management on the internal audit mandate or other aspects of the internal audit charter. Such circumstances may include but are not limited to:

- A significant change in the Global Internal Audit Standards.
- A significant reorganization within the organization.
- Significant changes in the chief audit executive, BOT Audit Committee, and/or senior management.
- Significant changes to the organization's strategies, objectives, risk profile, or the environment in which the organization operates.
- New laws or regulations that may affect the nature and/or scope of internal audit services.



# Western Illinois University Internal Auditing Department Charter

## **BOT Audit Committee Oversight**

The responsibilities of the BOT Audit Committee are outlined in the Western Illinois University's Audit Committee Charter.

## **Chief Audit Executive Roles and Responsibilities**

### ***Ethics and Professionalism***

The chief audit executive will ensure that internal auditors:

- Conform with the Global Internal Audit Standards, including the principles of Ethics and Professionalism: integrity, objectivity, competency, due professional care, and confidentiality.
- Understand, respect, meet, and contribute to the legitimate and ethical expectations of the organization and be able to recognize conduct that is contrary to those expectations.
- Encourage and promote an ethics-based culture in the organization.
- Report organizational behavior that is inconsistent with the organization's ethical expectations, as described in applicable policies and procedures.

### **Objectivity**

The chief audit executive will ensure that the internal audit function remains free from all conditions that threaten the ability of internal auditors to carry out their responsibilities in an unbiased manner, including matters of engagement selection, scope, procedures, frequency, timing, and communication. If the chief audit executive determines that objectivity may be impaired in fact or appearance, the details of the impairment will be disclosed to appropriate parties.

Internal auditors will maintain an unbiased mental attitude that allows them to perform engagements objectively such that they believe in their work product, do not compromise quality, and do not subordinate their judgment on audit matters to others, either in fact or appearance.

Internal auditors will have no direct operational responsibility or authority over any of the activities they review. Accordingly, internal auditors will not implement internal controls, develop procedures, install systems, or engage in other activities that may impair their judgment, including:

- Assessing specific operations for which they had responsibility within the previous year.
- Performing operational duties for Western Illinois University or its affiliates other than those for the Internal Audit Department.
- Initiating or approving transactions external to the internal audit function.
- Directing the activities of any Western Illinois University employee that is not employed by the internal audit function, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to internal audit teams or to assist internal auditors.

# Western Illinois University

## Internal Auditing Department Charter

Internal auditors will:

- Disclose impairments of independence or objectivity, in fact or appearance, to appropriate parties and at least annually, such as the chief audit executive, BOT Audit Committee, management, or others.
- Exhibit professional objectivity in gathering, evaluating, and communicating information.
- Make balanced assessments of all available and relevant facts and circumstances.
- Take necessary precautions to avoid conflicts of interest, bias, and undue influence.

### ***Managing the Internal Audit Function***

The chief audit executive has the responsibility to:

- Annually, develop a flexible, risk-based two-year internal audit plan that considers the input of management and the BOT Audit Committee. Discuss the plan with senior management and submit the plan for review by the BOT Audit Committee for feedback and concurrence. The Audit Plan should be approved by the University President by June 30 of each year.
- Communicate the impact of resource limitations on the internal audit plan to the BOT Audit Committee and senior management.
- Review and adjust the internal audit plan, as necessary, in response to changes in Western Illinois University's business, risks, operations, programs, systems, and controls.
- Communicate with the BOT Audit Committee and senior management if there are significant interim changes to the internal audit plan.
- Report to the President and the BOT Audit Committee by September 30 of each year the scope and results of audits and adequacy of management's corrective actions. • Ensure internal audit engagements are performed, documented, and communicated in accordance with the Global Internal Audit Standards, the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act and any other relevant laws and/or regulations.
- Follow up on engagement findings and confirm the implementation of recommendations or action plans and communicate the results of internal audit services to the BOT Audit Committee and senior management periodically.
- Ensure the internal audit function collectively possesses or obtains the knowledge, skills, and other competencies and qualifications needed to meet the requirements of the Global Internal Audit Standards and fulfill the internal audit mandate.
- Identify and consider trends and emerging issues that could impact Western Illinois University and communicate to the BOT Audit Committee and senior management as appropriate.
- Consider emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing. • Establish and ensure adherence to methodologies designed to guide the internal audit function.
- Ensure adherence to Western Illinois University's relevant policies and procedures unless such policies and procedures conflict with the internal audit charter or the Global Internal Audit Standards. Any such conflicts will be resolved or documented and communicated to the BOT Audit Committee and senior management.
- Coordinate activities and consider relying upon the work of other internal and external providers of assurance and advisory services. If the chief audit executive cannot achieve an appropriate level of coordination, the issue must be communicated to senior management and if necessary escalated to the BOT Audit Committee.

# Western Illinois University Internal Auditing Department Charter

## ***Communication with the BOT - Audit Committee and Senior Management***

The chief audit executive will report periodically to the BOT Audit Committee and senior management regarding:

- The internal audit function's mandate.
- The internal audit plan and performance relative to its plan.
- Internal audit budget.
- Significant revisions to the internal audit plan and budget.
- Potential impairments to independence, including relevant disclosures as applicable. • Results from the quality assurance and improvement program, which include the internal audit function's conformance with the IIA's Global Internal Audit Standards and action plans to address the internal audit function's deficiencies and opportunities for improvement.
- Significant risk exposures and control issues, including fraud risks, governance issues, and other areas of focus for the BOT Audit Committee that could interfere with the achievement of Western Illinois University's strategic objectives.
- Results of assurance and advisory services.
- Resource requirements.
- Management's responses to risk that the internal audit function determines may be unacceptable or acceptance of a risk that is beyond Western Illinois University's risk appetite.

## ***Quality Assurance and Improvement Program***

The chief audit executive will develop, implement, and maintain a quality assurance and improvement program that covers all aspects of the internal audit function. The program will include external and internal assessments of the internal audit function's conformance with the Global Internal Audit Standards, as well as performance measurement to assess the internal audit function's progress toward the achievement of its objectives and promotion of continuous improvement. The program also will assess, if applicable, compliance with laws and/or regulations relevant to internal auditing. Also, if applicable, the assessment will include plans to address the internal audit function's deficiencies and opportunities for improvement.

Annually, the chief audit executive will communicate with the BOT Audit Committee and senior management about the internal audit function's quality assurance and improvement program, including the results of internal assessments (ongoing monitoring and periodic self-assessments) and external assessments. Periodic internal and external assessments will be conducted under the guidelines provided by the State Internal Audit Advisory Board. External assessments will be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside Western Illinois University; qualifications must include at least one assessor holding an active Certified Internal Auditor® credential. Public sector competencies and knowledge as well as knowledge of the Global Internal Audit Standards should be considered when selecting external assessors.

## **Scope and Types of Internal Audit Services**

The scope of internal audit services covers the entire breadth of the organization, including all of activities, assets, and personnel of Western Illinois University and its related organizations. The

# Western Illinois University Internal Auditing Department Charter

scope of internal audit activities also encompasses but is not limited to objective examinations of evidence to provide independent assurance and advisory services to the BOT Audit Committee and management on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management, and control processes for Western Illinois University.

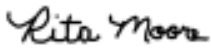
The nature and scope of advisory services may be agreed with the party requesting the service, provided the internal audit function does not assume management responsibility. Advisory services may also include those less formal in nature such as providing advice, facilitation, and training. Opportunities for improving the efficiency of governance, risk management, and control processes may be identified during advisory engagements. These opportunities will be communicated to the appropriate level of management.


Internal audit engagements may include evaluating whether:

- Risks relating to the achievement of Western Illinois University’s strategic objectives are appropriately identified and managed. The actions of Western Illinois University’s officers, directors, management, employees, and contractors or other relevant parties comply with Western Illinois University’s policies, procedures, and applicable laws, regulations, and governance standards.
- The results of operations and programs are consistent with established goals and objectives.
- Operations and programs are being carried out effectively, efficiently, ethically, and equitably.
- Established processes and systems enable compliance with the policies, procedures, laws, and regulations that could significantly impact Western Illinois University. • The integrity of information and the means used to identify, measure, analyze, classify, and report such information is reliable.
- Resources and assets are acquired economically, used efficiently and sustainably, and protected adequately.

Internal audit engagements also include conducting or assisting in the investigation of suspected fraudulent activities within or against Western Illinois University and notifying management and the BOT Audit Committee, of the results, as well as law enforcement as appropriate. This will be done in collaboration with the University Ethics Office.

## Acknowledgments/Signatures

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Audit Executive Date November 19, 2024  
Rita Moore,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, WIU Date Kristi Mindrup, Interim

\_\_\_\_\_  
- Audit Committee Chair Date Douglas Shaw, WIU BOT  
Approved by the WIU BOT \_\_\_\_\_ Date

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/6 – Appointment and Approval of Trustee to Chair the Board of Trustees Audit Committee

Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees has a standing Audit Committee as noted in section *IX. Committees* of the *Board of Trustees Bylaws*, and the standing Chair person no longer will be available to fulfill these duties, a new trustee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board, and approved by the majority of the board at such other meetings as may be appropriate.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that Trustee Derek Wise was appointed by the Chair, and is being approved by the full Board of Trustees to serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee at the December 5, 2025 meeting.

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 6, 2024

## Resolution No. 24.12/7 – UPI, Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO ProTech – 2023-2026 Bargaining Agreement

Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees must approve collective bargaining agreements prior to implementation; and,

**WHEREAS**, an agreement was reached on November 19, 2024, and was ratified on December 6, 2024, by the UPI, Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO – ProTech.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the agreement as presented.

### UPI, Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO - ProTech

An agreement was previously reached on December 4, 2023, and was ratified on December 12, 2023, for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, with the UPI, Local 4100, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO. The UPI ProTech now represents approximately 82 employees. During this fiscal year three additional employees were certified by the Illinois Labor Relations Board as members of the UPI ProTech Collective Bargaining group. These newly represented employees will receive retroactive payment of 3% effective July 1, 2024.

The parties agreed to a wage reopener based on the salary survey that was concluded FY24.

### Wage Settlement

The contract contains all the provisions required by law. In addition, it contains specific articles reflecting the unique circumstances of Western Illinois University. The minimum salary ranges for bargaining unit classifications shall be set between \$30,285 and \$52,485, effective January 1, 2025.

The parties agreed to increase the salaries of bargaining unit members to the minimum starting range of their classification.

### The parties agreed to the following for Fiscal Year 25, effective 01/01/2025:

Effective January 1, 2025, ten (10) employees covered by this contract making less than the revised minimum salary ranges shall receive wage increases (one) Admissions/Records Representative will increase to \$33,313; four Information Technology Support Associates salary will increase to \$40,309; four Information Technology Technical Associate salary will increase to \$44,340; and, one Radio Station Production Supervisor salary will increase to \$44,340.