

**Presidential Priorities
Western Illinois University
Academic Year 2022-23**

President Guiyou Huang, Western Illinois University's 12th president, assumed office January 1, 2021. After a thorough analysis of Western's current academic programs, fiscal health and sustainability, economic impact, enrollment and recruitment trends, faculty and staff culture, and institutional commitments, Dr. Huang has outlined the following as priorities for Western Illinois University over the next five years.

Priorities

Financial Sustainability

Over the next five years, a budget model and practices will be developed that ensure fiscal sustainability in the coming decade. This will be achieved through campus-wide, transparent discussion, planning, and implementation.

Institutional Distinctiveness

Our institutional distinctiveness solidifies Western's sense of identity. For over 122 years, WIU has provided educational opportunities and access to public higher education to underserved student populations. We will continue that mission and, in doing so, we will highlight the academic and University programs that make WIU distinctive, such as our cybersecurity and emergency management programs, our First Year Experience Program, tutoring, student support services, outreach (including such centers as the Seymour Center, IIRA, etc.), and more.

Internationalization

We will further increase the number of international students at WIU. International students, faculty, and staff enrich our campus and local communities, and expand our cultural and economic horizons in countless ways. For our domestic students, viable, accessible travel and study abroad programs provide vital learning and leadership opportunities that are critical in this global society.

Student Success

Recruitment, Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation are essential resources, programs, and priorities to ensure our University's and our students' success. Over the next five years, WIU will achieve increases in graduation rates, retention rates, and total enrollment. The target is to grow total University headcount by at least 15% over the next five years, while also increasing our fall-to-fall retention rate of first-year students by 1% each year. Another primary goal is to increase four- and six-year graduation rates by at least 1% each year, and to effectively close the graduation gap for Latinx, Black, Pell-eligible, and first-generation students.

Justice, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity

We will celebrate and nurture a culture of diversity, which leads to greater justice, inclusion, equity, and anti-racism. We will develop policy and procedures across the institution to ensure that our University is welcoming and diverse, as well as equitable and inclusive.

Conclusion

Working together, we will move Western forward and further position our University as a robust, distinctive, and vibrant institution through our teaching, learning, research, technology, and international outreach. The priorities outlined above will provide the direction and guidance for the future.