

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
Steve Nelson, Chairperson Bill Griffin
Blake Antonides Mike Houston
Carolyn Ehlert Fuller Bill Epperly

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

Date: January 27, 2009

Re: January 2009 Strategic Plan Update

This month's Strategic Plan Update is a special edition. Earlier this month, Western Illinois University's Scholarship Program that is administered by the Scholarship Office was named a "best practice" by the Center for Student Opportunity (CSO).

As described on its Website, www.csopportunity.org, "The CSO is an online clearinghouse of college programs and admissions information serving first-generation, low-income, and minority student populations." Monthly electronic newsletters from the CSO are sent to high school guidance counselors, prospective students, their families, and college and university representatives.

In highlighting Western Illinois University's Scholarship Office the article stated, "In 2006, the program distributed \$2.5 million in scholarship support. Western Illinois has an ambitious scholarship program and includes a number of offerings specifically for entering minority students, including the DuSable scholarship (\$1,000 per year, renewable at \$500), the Western Opportunity Grant (\$1,000), the Western Opportunity Scholarship (\$500 to \$2,000) and the Student Services Minority Achievement Access/Retention Grant (multiple awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000)."

Other institutions and programs recognized by the CSO in January 2009 were: Case Western Reserve University's and Truman State University's high-school to college transition programs, Georgia College & State University's Minority Advisement Program, Manchester College's Triple Guarantee Program, and Prairie View A&M University's Institute for Pre-College Enrichment.

Some of the programs described above focus on the college transition and initial student experiences, similar to Western Illinois University's statewide best practice on the First Year Experience. Through *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018* and comprehensive fundraising, Western Illinois University will continue its vision of providing statewide and national leadership in affordability by successfully implementing Strategic Plan priorities of:

- Promoting the University's affordability and cost predictability for undergraduate and graduate education.
- Achieving scholarship (and other) goals for the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses as part of the newly developing comprehensive campaign for Western Illinois University.
- Providing opportunities for students to learn about financial responsibility and become more proactive in solving financial problems.
- Developing, implementing, and supporting new and enhanced strategies for reducing the amount of student indebtedness upon graduation.

