

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

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

Date: March 31, 2011

Re: March 2011 Strategic Plan Update

Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018 contains priorities of increasing student enrollment and graduation rates, providing seamless transfer, engaging in academic advisement that focuses on degree requirements and timely degree completion, and reducing levels of student indebtedness upon graduation. As discussed in this month's *Strategic Plan Update*, Western's participation in the Illinois State Student Commission's (ISAC) Monetary Award Program (MAP) 2+2 Pilot Program—an expansion of existing dual enrollment programs with Black Hawk College, Carl Sandburg College, and Spoon River College—will achieve these shared institutional and statewide priorities.

Background

Western's participation in the MAP 2+2 Pilot Program is an extension of the former "Linkages" program with Black Hawk College and the "Western Illinois Advantage" program with Carl Sandburg College.

In the former programs, students were admitted as unclassified students, took classes at the community college and university each semester for the freshmen and sophomore years, started their Cost Guarantee, received Western's Audit of Requirements for Degree report each semester, and attended University events. Students were also assessed University rates for community college classes to allow banking of Illinois MAP variance dollars (the difference between community college tuition and Western tuition) until the student was a junior at Western.

The MAP 2+2 Pilot Program is an extension of the former programs based on analysis of strengths, challenges and opportunities. In the MAP 2+2 Pilot Program:

1. Western will partner with Black Hawk College, Carl Sandburg College, and Spoon River College to offer dual enrollment (students will take at least one class at Western and the remainder at the community college each semester during the freshman and sophomore years).
2. Students will be admitted to the University under published freshman or transfer requirements, as opposed to admission as a non-degree student to enable full access to all forms of eligible financial aid.
3. Students will continue to benefit from the Cost Guarantee, WARD reports, access to University events, and banking of unused financial aid to be applied during the junior and senior years. The Quad Cities Campus will also pilot on-site advisement at Black Hawk College.

Pilot Program Rationale and Implementation

In the current MAP 2+2 program, the student only receives grant funding for costs at the host institution. The table below summarizes annual tuition and fee rates at Western, the community colleges (in-district

charges) and the amount of unused MAP grant funding per student since awards are based on institutional costs at the home institution.

| Tuition and Fees Rates Paid by Fall 2010 New Students at Partner Institutions with MAP Values Not Assessed/Per Student ¹ | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | Tuition and Fees Fall 2010 New Students | | | Maximum Annual MAP Award | Value MAP Grants Not Assessed/Student | | |
| | Academic Year <u>2010-11</u> | Academic Year <u>2011-12</u> | | | Academic Year <u>2010-11</u> | Academic Year <u>2011-12</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Black Hawk College | \$2,835 | \$2,955 | | \$4,998 | \$2,163 | \$2,043 | \$4,206 |
| Carl Sandburg College | \$4,035 | \$4,035 | | \$4,998 | \$963 | \$963 | \$1,926 |
| Spoon River College | \$3,000 | \$3,360 | | \$4,998 | \$1,998 | \$1,338 | \$3,336 |
| WIU-Macomb | | | | | | | |
| Transfer Cost Guarantee | \$9,617 | \$9,617 | | \$4,998 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other New Students | \$10,149 | \$10,149 | | \$4,998 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| WIU-Quad Cities | | | | | | | |
| Transfer Cost Guarantee | \$7,314 | \$7,314 | | \$4,998 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other New Students | \$7,754 | \$7,754 | | \$4,998 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

1. Academic year 2011-2012 tuition and fee rates are estimated for SRC. CSC and WIU have cost guarantees. WIU charges different fee rates on its two campuses; values are based on services provided.

The MAP 2+2 Pilot Program assesses dually enrolled freshmen and sophomores university rates for community college courses in the calculation of MAP grant funding. However, students only pay the actual tuition and fee rates for the institution(s) attended. All variance dollars are “banked” until the junior and senior year when it is divided equally between the two years and added to the MAP maximum in determining the amount of grant aid that will be provided to the student.

For example, under the current MAP 2+2 program, a new fall 2010 in-district Spoon River College student is assessed \$6,360 in tuition and fees for academic years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 (\$3,000 in academic year 2010-2011 and \$3,360 in academic year 2011-2012). The maximum MAP funding for these two years is \$9,996 (\$4,998*2), but the student would only receive \$6,360 to cover institutional costs. The remaining \$3,636 would not be available to the student.

In the MAP 2+2 Pilot Program, the same SRC student would now be eligible to receive all \$4,998 in grant funding annually for the freshman and sophomore years since Western’s annual tuition is higher than the annual MAP funding maximum. But since the student is actually paying Spoon River Costs, the remaining \$3,636 (\$9,996-\$6,360) is now “banked” until the junior and senior year when funds are equally divided between the two years. Therefore, when enrolled at Western, the student will now annually receive \$6,816 in MAP grant funding (\$4,998 maximum MAP+ \$1,818 in annual banked funds), as opposed the \$4,998 in the current MAP 2+2 program. The additional \$1,818 is a 36.4 percent increase in the annual amount of grant aid available to the student.

Analysis for Western Illinois University-Macomb

The total four-year cost of attendance on the Macomb Campus is over \$90,000. Participation in dual enrollment program reduces the total cost by approximately one-third. It also reduces total student debt by one-half, and unmet financial need by two-thirds.

Fall 2010 first-time freshmen attending Western Illinois University-Macomb for all four years are estimated to incur \$92,192 in costs for tuition, fees, and other expenses (housing, room and board, books, and transportation). State and federal grant aid will cover \$41,872 (45%); the student is responsible for the remaining \$50,260 (55%).

Of the \$50,260 obligation, the student could take up to \$27,000 in Stafford loans to cover part of the difference. However, this leaves \$23,260 in remaining need (costs that are not covered by federal or state grants or federally

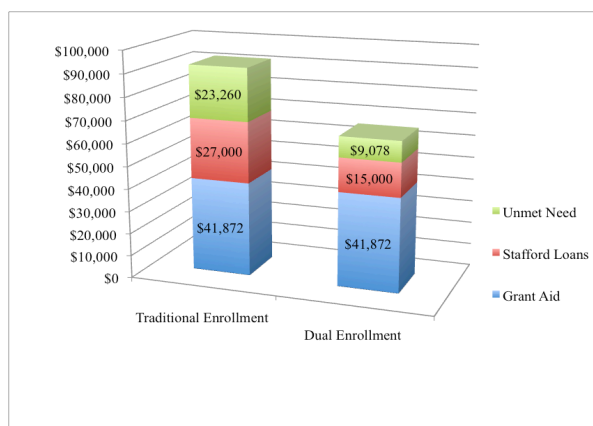
guaranteed loans) and requires additional sources of revenue (e.g., work, individual, and/or family loans) to support continued university attendance.

For students participating in dual enrollment, the total cost to earn a four-year bachelors degree ranges from \$64,016 to \$65,810. This represents a savings of 29% and 31% of the total cost of attendance—depending on community college tuition and fee rates.

The choice to participate in dual enrollment does not change the amount of grant aid (Pell and MAP funding) available to students. It remains constant at \$41,272. However, the application of a “high tuition/high financial aid” model reduces the student’s responsibility from \$50,260 to between \$23,652 (53% reduction) and \$25,446 (49% reduction).

Furthermore, by applying \$15,000 in Stafford loans available in the junior and senior year, the student’s unmet need decreases from \$23,260 to between \$8,652 (63% percent reduction) and \$10,446 (55% reduction).

The chart below summarizes these comparisons using the partnership between Western Illinois University-Macomb and Spoon River College as an example.



Analysis for Western Illinois University-Quad Cities

There are differences in the cost comparisons for the two campuses of Western Illinois University. First, while the Board of Trustees approves one tuition rate for its two campuses, fees between the locations are different, based on services provided. Also, as a commuter campus, WIU-QC does not require student insurance; however, students may choose to participate in the University’s plan.

Second, because WIU-QC does not offer general education and only limited 100- and 200-level courses only to support dual enrollment, cost comparisons in the preceding chart for the Macomb Campus are not possible with the Quad Cities Campus.

However, the University does compare WIU-QC costs to other local colleges and universities. The expected four-year total cost at WIU-QC with partner community colleges under dual enrollment programs range from \$42,258 to \$44,051. Comparative costs at other local four-year institutions (holding tuition and fees constant and assuming housing waivers to be consistent with WIU-QC) are \$113,664 at Saint Ambrose University and \$139,032 at Augustana College. The choice for the WIU-QC/community college partnership can save students up to 70 percent on their total cost of attendance.

With dual enrollment, student debt loads are below annual Stafford loan annual thresholds. This eliminates student need for additional sources of revenue (e.g., work, individual, and/or family loans) to support continued university attendance.

Program Benefits and Opportunities

The MAP 2+2 pilot program is designed to reduce the debt burden students incur when pursuing a bachelor’s degree. The program places the most financially at-risk students in a better position to minimize their debt. The full cost of tuition and fees will be covered at the community college and a higher award will be paid at Western.

There are no new, institutional, or state costs associated with program participation. Total grant funding remains the same, only the distribution pattern is changed. Furthermore, the program builds institutional commitment. A participating student from BHC, CSC, or SRC choosing not to attend WIU (Macomb or Quad Cities) loses access to the “banked” MAP funds.

Increased transfer rates are very important to a region that has limited public higher educational opportunities. There are only three (of 12) Illinois public universities west of the Illinois River that geographically portions the state in half. For place-bound individuals, relocation and associated continuing higher education is not an option.

Seamless transfer programs are necessary to increase educational attainment levels. Data reported by the United States Census Bureau shows that the percent of residents age 25 or older who have earned a bachelors degree or higher in Illinois is 26.1%, while comparable rates are 14.6% in Knox County, 17.1% in Rock Island County, and 26.9% in McDonough County—the homes of BHC, CSC, and SRC, respectively.

This program should be successful. Our institutions share a proven history of articulation agreements. In fact, it was these successful partnerships that helped the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education to name WIU as one of the top 13 institutions nationally for the recruitment and achievement of first-generation and low-income students in 2006. Likewise, the Educational Trust named Western as one of the top 20 institutions nationally for successfully advancing graduation rates of Hispanic students in 2010.

Thank you; and if you have any questions about this program and/or the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

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