

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
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From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities and Planning

Date: August 29, 2013

Re: August 2013 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides you with highlights of the many achievements for the Western Illinois University community during the last month. It also provides you with examples of the many events occurring at the start of this new academic year. These accomplishments and events show that collectively we continue to successfully advance the values, priorities and goals of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

Demonstrating the academic excellence and educational opportunities of Western Illinois University:

- Two hundred and eighty Western Illinois University undergraduate students were named to the 2013 Summer Dean's List. To earn this recognition for academic excellence, a student must achieve at least a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in a minimum of six graded credit hours.
- Taking advantage of the University's educational opportunities, 550 students earned academic degrees after the 2013 summer semester at Western Illinois University.
- *The Princeton Review* named Western Illinois University a "Best Midwestern College" for the ninth consecutive year. WIU was one of 155 regional universities, and one of three Illinois public institutions, named to the "Best in the Midwest" list by *The Princeton Review*. Additional information on Western's recognition is available at www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=10922.
- Dr. C. S'thembile West, Women's Studies, will present the 11th annual John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture. Her "Dancing Metaphors: Creative Self-Construction and Liberal Arts Education" lecture will be presented on the Quad Cities 60th Street campus September 4th at 3 p.m. in room 102A. The lecture will be delivered on the Macomb campus September 5th at 7 p.m. in the University Union Grand Ballroom.

Demonstrating the University's commitment to social responsibility and personal growth:

- A Whitney Sanford, associate professor of religion at the University of Florida will present the 27th annual Mary Olive Woods Lecture at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 19th, in the University Union Grand Ballroom. Her lecture is titled, "Bread Labor: Food, Freedom, and the Mainstreaming of Sustainability."

- Dr. Susan Romano, Biology, was named a fellow in the Society of American Foresters. This recognition was granted to Dr. Romano's by her peers for outstanding service to the society and to the profession of natural resources.

- A team of four Western Illinois University Agriculture students interested in agronomy under the mentorship of Dr. Mark Bernards received first place in the North Central Weed Science Society Summer Weed Contest held in Monmouth, Illinois. One hundred and twenty students from the University of Guelph, Ontario (Canada), Cornell University, North Carolina State University, Kansas State University, the University of Nebraska, and many other institutions participated in this competition that included weed and herbicide identifications, sprayer calibration, consultation, and simulated troubleshooting.

Should you have questions about the materials in this *Update*, and/or if you have feedback for the continued successful advancement of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

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