

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

Date: December 3, 2013

Re: December 2013 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows how many of the reports and resolutions presented at the December 13, 2013, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting are directly related to successful advancement of the priorities and goals in *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the *Long Term Plan for Western Illinois University*. This month's *Update* also provides you with a briefing on institutional participation in the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools' new Academy on Student Persistence and Completion.

Board Materials

Samples of Board materials related to the successful advancement of university priorities and goals include:

- *Report on Contributions* documents the University's success in exceeding the \$60 million fundraising goal for the current Comprehensive Campaign.
- *Enrollment, Retention and Graduation Rate Information* discusses institutional initiatives, accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities as the campus community works to increase student enrollment, persistence, and graduation rates.
- *Fiscal Year 2014 Transfer Student Report* describes university initiatives, accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities related to the recruitment and retention of a base of students that comprises approximately 48 percent of new undergraduate students.
- *Fiscal Year 2014 Performance Report* summarizes the impact of strategic plan implementation by documenting whether university performance indicators are completed/maintained, progressing in the desired direction, showing no change, or moving in the opposite direction. University performance is also compared to results at benchmark institutions.
- *Annual Presentation of Auditing Department Charter* illustrates institutional commitments to efficiency, transparency, accountability, and continuous process improvement.
- *Fiscal Year 2013 Master Plan Update* and *Facility Assessment Report* gives examples of how the University is working to enhance the student experience in facilities, grounds, and infrastructure through new construction, planning, and permanent improvements.

- *Long Term Planning Update* provides information on the University's activity in the Higher Learning Commission's new Persistence and Completion Academy. Participation in national initiatives is one of the University's strategies designed to increase student retention and graduation rates.
- *Report on Concealed Carry* recommends new university policy in compliance with state legislation and institutional commitments to providing safe and secure environments.

Persistence and Completion Academy

The Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (the Commission) launched a new Academy addressing Student Persistence and Completion. The Academy is designed to build institutional capacity to improve persistence and completion of its students by focusing on effective collection of data, evaluation, improvement of current strategies, and development of new strategies.

The Academy brings multiple perspectives of institutions from different sectors, types, degrees conferred, and enrollment to enhance diversity of perspectives and approaches. In addition to benchmarking against peer and/or aspiration institutions, the University will gain perspectives and strategies from a variety of institutions sharing in a common desire to enhance student success. Joining Western Illinois University in the first cohort that will start in March 2014 are the following 14 institutions:

<u>Institution/Location</u>	<u>Sector and Type</u>	<u>Highest Degree Conferred</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
Central Wyoming College (Riverton, Wyoming)	Public Community College	Associates	2,139
Community College of Denver (Denver, Colorado)	Public Community College	Associates	11,901
DeVry University (Downers Grove, Illinois)	Private For-Profit	Masters	79,870
Forest Institute of Professional Psychology (Springfield, Missouri)	Private Not-For-Profit	Doctoral	281
Grand Rapids Community College (Grand Rapids, Michigan)	Public Community College	Associates	17,817
Institute of American Indian Arts (Santa Fe, New Mexico)	Tribal	Masters	525
Lawrence Technological University (Southfield, Michigan)	Private Not-For-Profit	Doctoral	4,327
Metropolitan Community College (Omaha, Nebraska)	Public Community College	Associates	18,884
National American University (Rapid City, South Dakota)	Private For-Profit	Doctoral	11,684
New Mexico State University-Carlsbad (Carlsbad, New Mexico)	Public Community College	Associates	2,660
Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (Okmulgee, Oklahoma)	Public	Bachelors	4,102
Tabor College (Hillsboro, Kansas)	Private Not-For-Profit	Masters	741
University of the Rockies (Colorado Springs, Colorado)	Private For-Profit	Doctoral	2,015
Wayne State College (Wayne, Nebraska)	Public	Masters	3,582

The primary benefit to successful institutional participation in the Academy is student success. Additional benefits include advancing priority from the *Long Term Plan for Western Illinois University* to participate in national initiatives to increase retention and graduation rates and *Higher Values in Higher Education* priorities to engage in focused recruitment and retention efforts, support initiatives designed to increase student success, and use partnerships to advance the University's goals and priorities.

As a first step in Academy participation, Angela Bonifas, Associate Director of Institutional Research and Planning; Kristi Mindrup, Assistant Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning; and Sara Lytle, Assistant Director of Retention and Student Success will attend a workshop with Commission staff and institutional representatives to learn of specific requirements to be completed in advance of the Academy's March 2014 initiation. Future *Strategic Plan Updates* will keep you informed of University progress in Academy participation.

Should you have any questions about the materials presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update*, and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me. Thank you and have an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

cc:	President Thomas	CSEC Pres. Mattson	Associate Provost Neumann
	Provost Hawkinson	COAP President Moon	Associate Provost Parsons
	Vice President Bainter	Faculty Council Chair Pillutla	Assistant Vice President Williams
	Vice President Biller	Faculty Senate Chair Rock	Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
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