

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
Cathy Early, Chair Bill Epperly
Andre Ashmore Carolyn Ehlert Fuller
Roger Clawson Phil Hare
Lyneir Cole Yvonne Savala

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

Date: July 31, 2013

Re: July 2013 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows that the academic excellence, educational opportunity, and social responsibility of Western Illinois University continue to receive state and national recognitions.

- The Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools previously approved WIU's participation in the off-campus notification program. This is an honor reserved for the top one percent of institutions in the 19-state association. It allows the University after receiving institutional and state approvals to notify—rather than apply—to the Commission for new Illinois off-campus locations. WIU's notification portfolio has been expanded to include all 50 United States. This is the highest honor for institutions with off-campus programs in the U.S. Other classifications are prior commission approval required and notification only within the 19-state Commission region.
- WIU's Peace Corps Fellows Program in Community Development administered by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs received a \$130,000 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Peace Corps graduate students complete their studies and an 11-month internship in an underserved rural Illinois community. More than WIU 100 students and have participated in this program since 1994. Additional information about this program and the latest grant funding is available at www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=10894.
- The Summer 2013 edition of *Sustainable Construction* (www.SustainableConstruction.com) featured the cover story "Studying in Sustainable Style: Western Illinois University achieves LEED Silver for Phase I [Quad Cities] renovation. New construction for Phase II underway." The article chronicles sustainable construction and renovation practices used in Riverfront Phases I and II. The cover story is available at www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cygnus/sc_2013summer/#/8, and classes in Phase II will begin in fall 2014.

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. Your next Strategic Plan Update will include an update from the President's Leadership Team's review of the *Long Term Plan for Western Illinois University*.

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
Vice President DeWees SGA Chair Markey President's Office Support Staff