

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

Date: January 28, 2016

Re: January 2016 Strategic Plan Update

The *November 2015 Strategic Plan Update* compared student outcomes at Western Illinois University to national benchmark institutions. These comparisons showed that more Western students graduate from the University than are predicted on the basis of entering characteristics alone, and that Western alumni earn higher median salaries than independently predicted by two external agencies.

Further analyses of these data show that Western Illinois University is a strong contributor to Illinois public higher education. The Illinois public universities annually educate over 200,000 students, and function as regional economic engines. The combined annual economic impact of the 12 Illinois public universities is \$28 billion. Therefore, this month's *Strategic Plan Update* replicates the methodology from the *November 2015 Strategic Plan Update* to compare results from the Illinois public universities.

**Washington Monthly Rankings**

The *Washington Monthly* ranks each institution for their combined contributions to social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and PhDs), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country). Western Illinois University joins four other Illinois public universities in the top 30 of 403 (7%) of Midwestern colleges and universities. Washington Monthly did not rank Northeastern Illinois University and Governors State University in its 12-state comparison (of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

	<u>Ranking</u>
Illinois State	4 <sup>th</sup>
Illinois-Chicago	8 <sup>th</sup>
Eastern Illinois	11 <sup>th</sup>
Illinois-Springfield	24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>
Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	75 <sup>th</sup>
Northern Illinois	148 <sup>th</sup>
Southern Illinois-Carbondale	208 <sup>th</sup>
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	215 <sup>th</sup>
Chicago State	352 <sup>nd</sup>

With regard to student input measures included in the rankings, Western had the second lowest ACT interquartile range (middle half of the ACT score distribution), and was above the median in the percentage of students who receive Pell grants.

These results are consistent with the University's *Strategic Plan*. For example, 285 of the fall 2015 new freshmen were admitted to the University through the special admission program in conjunction with the core value of educational opportunity. Additionally, following the priority to demonstrate state and national leadership in affordability, Fiscal Year 2016 actions include reallocating \$11 million to support 2,700 students that were effected by the State of Illinois not funding its need-based financial assistance program, lowering tuition for fall 2016 incoming undergraduate students by three percent, and establishing instate tuition for all domestic undergraduate and graduate students.

	ACT Interquartile Range		Percent of Students with Pell Grants
Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	26-31	Chicago State	78.0%
Illinois State	22-26	Illinois-Chicago	46.3%
Illinois-Chicago	21-26	Southern Illinois-Carbondale	41.3%
Illinois-Springfield	20-26	Northern Illinois	38.3%
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	20-25	<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>36.3%</b>
Northern Illinois	19-24	Eastern Illinois	35.3%
Eastern Illinois	19-23	Illinois-Springfield	34.7%
Southern Illinois-Carbondale	18-24	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	32.7%
<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>18-23</b>	Illinois State	23.7%
Chicago State	16-19	Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	19.3%

With regard to student output and outcome measures, Western is slightly below (0.3%) the statewide median for reported graduation rates. However, the University has the fourth highest graduation rate performance (difference between the predicted and actual graduation rates). With a commitment to the individual learner and the teaching-learning process as described in the core value of academic excellence, the University graduates more students than projected based on entering characteristics (e.g., ACT score and high school percentile rank)<sup>1</sup>.

	Graduation Rate (GR)		GR Performance
Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	83.3%	Eastern Illinois	8.6%
Illinois State	71.0%	Illinois-Springfield	6.5%
Eastern Illinois	60.3%	Illinois State	6.2%
Illinois-Springfield	58.7%	<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
Northern Illinois	55.3%	Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	0.8%
<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	Northern Illinois	0.5%
<b>Illinois-Chicago</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	Southern Illinois-Carbondale	(1.1%)
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	51.7%	Illinois-Chicago	(1.4%)
Southern Illinois-Carbondale	46.7%	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	(2.5%)
Chicago State	18.7%	Chicago State	(7.5%)

### Economist Rankings

The *Economist* rankings predict median salaries for graduates ten years after starting college. The sample is based on students who received financial aid during college. The multiple regression formula used in the analysis accounts for 85% of the variance in salaries. Results are compared to actual median earnings, yielding a difference or “value added” for students attending a particular college or university.

<sup>1</sup> Average six-year institutional graduation rates for first-time, full-time students from 2010 through 2012 are reported. Because Western did not begin admitting first-time, full-time students to the Quad Cities until fall 2013, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities is excluded from analyses in this month's Update.

Western ranked third out of the 11 Illinois public universities. Governors State University was not ranked. Overall, Western ranked 303<sup>rd</sup> on the list of 1,275 institutions, placing the University in the top 24 percent nationally.

	Median <u>Earnings</u>	Expected <u>Earnings</u>	<u>Difference</u>	National <u>Rank</u>	Percentile <u>Rank</u>
Illinois-Chicago	\$51,600	\$48,595	\$3,005	214	83
Eastern Illinois	\$41,210	\$38,731	\$2,479	270	78
<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>\$41,110</b>	<b>\$38,919</b>	<b>\$2,191</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>76</b>
Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	\$56,600	\$54,936	\$1,664	368	71
Illinois State	\$45,100	\$43,509	\$1,591	379	70
Northeastern Illinois	\$36,000	36,049	(\$49)	618	51
Chicago State	\$34,200	\$34,875	(\$675)	720	43
Southern Illinois-Carbondale	\$41,500	\$42,740	(\$1,240)	812	36
Northern Illinois	\$43,900	\$46,447	(\$2,547)	987	22
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	\$39,800	\$43,471	(\$3,671)	1,108	13
Illinois-Springfield	\$41,800	\$46,251	(\$4,451)	1,158	9
Governors State	Not Ranked				

### **Brooking Institute Rankings**

Using a different data source and methodology, the Brooking Institute released its “value added” rankings for predicting median ten year salaries of alumni who received financial aid and entered college in 2001. A positive value added, according to the Brookings Report, indicates that the college or university helped the student earn a higher salary because its methodology controls for student characteristics, institutional type, and location.

In reviewing the data in the table below it is important to note that the dollar values presented have been adjusted for inflation to represent 2014 dollars. Additionally, the model used to predict earnings was based log-transformed values. Calculating value-added from the “actual” and “predicted” values displayed below will not match the published value-added unless the calculation is run on log-transformed values.

Results from the Brookings rankings show that Western Illinois University joins nine other Illinois public universities in being above the median of 1,666 institutions in this national sample. Moreover, alumni at all of the ranked Illinois public universities earn more than predicted based on the analytical methodology.

	Actual <u>Salary</u>	Predicted <u>Salary</u>	<u>Difference</u>	Value <u>Added</u>	Percentile <u>Rank</u>
Illinois-Urbana/Champaign	\$59,568	\$49,907	\$9,661	17.7%	84
Chicago State	\$35,994	\$30,954	\$5,040	15.1%	80
Illinois-Chicago	\$54,306	\$47,003	\$7,303	14.4%	78
Southern Illinois-Carbondale	\$43,676	\$38,554	\$5,122	12.5%	73
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville	\$41,887	\$38,553	\$3,334	8.3%	59
Illinois State	\$47,465	\$43,778	\$3,687	8.1%	58
Illinois-Springfield	\$43,992	\$40,967	\$3,025	7.1%	55
<b>Western Illinois</b>	<b>\$43,256</b>	<b>\$40,608</b>	<b>\$2,648</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>52</b>
Eastern Illinois	\$43,361	\$40,755	\$2,606	6.2%	51
Northeastern Illinois	\$37,888	\$36,394	\$1,494	4.0%	44
Northern Illinois	\$46,202	\$44,778	\$1,424	3.1%	41
Governors State	Not Ranked				

As the material presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows, continued successful implementation of the University's *Strategic Plan* advances the University's core values of academic excellence and educational opportunity, and student outcomes, as measured by graduation rates and median alumni salaries.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the materials presented in this month's *Update* and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

cc: President Thomas	CSEC President Trusley	SGA President Moreno
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