

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees  
Bill Epperly, Chairperson      Bill Griffin  
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Carolyn Ehlert                 Steve Nelson

From: Joe Rives, Assistant to the President, Planning, Budget, and Institutional Research

Date: July 31, 2006

Re: July 2006 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides you with updates on:

1. Western Illinois University's master planning;
2. Western Illinois University's technology planning.
3. Effective (best) Practices for the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

#### Master Planning

A new Western Illinois University-Macomb Master Plan Web site is now available to the campus and external community at [www.wiumberplan.com](http://www.wiumberplan.com). It contains a welcoming message from President Goldfarb, the opportunity to review materials presented to the campus and community members, a calendar of past and future master plan events, and a survey to give master plan ideas and feedback.

From the materials presented on this Web site, you will see that Goody/Clancy will be back on campus September 6-8 to present three design alternatives. Ideas from these design alternatives that are positively received by the campus and external communities will be the base for a first draft master plan to be presented to the campus and external communities before the conclusion of the fall semester. I will be in contact soon to see if you would like an individual session with the master planners. I will also send you copies of materials advertising master planning events to the campus community as they are developed.

Implementation of master planning is proceeding quite well on the Quad Cities Campus. A team of 20 faculty and staff toured facilities at Bradley University, Illinois State University, and Heartland Community College. We also met with PSA/Dewberry, the architectural and engineering firm that is contracted for Complex 1, to begin planning for the interior of the first building that will house the College of Business and Technology, Student Services, Library, and administration. A second benchmarking trip to view state-of-the-art facilities at the University of Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa, and other institutions is currently being planned. I will provide additional information as planning is finalized.

#### Technology Planning

President Goldfarb charged me this summer to work with the campus community, as *Higher Values in Higher Education* states, to develop and successfully implement a strategic plan that coordinates the efficient acquisition, utilization, and application of technology. During the summer I have been working

with the President's Technology Advisory Users Group (a group of 30 faculty and staff representing all divisions, colleges and departments at the University), the President's Technology Infrastructure Group (staff with administrative responsibilities for technology), and the Vice Presidents to develop an institutional strategic plan for technology. I will provide copy of the plan as it develops in subsequent correspondence. Membership of the President's two technology committees is displayed in Table 1 (attached).

I will also provide a briefing of the many technology activities occurring in your August Strategic Plan Update. This will include creation of universal e-mail and calendar, Social Security Number and credit card use and reporting, and mainframe/file transfer protocol download Task Forces. We have also been installing fiber to complete the first half of the infrastructure work necessary to complete a wireless network on the Western Illinois University-Macomb Campus. The second half is planned for completion next summer. Technology planning for the new Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront Campus will also commence during the next month.

#### Effective Practices

At your September Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting, I will be presenting the University's Fiscal Year 2006 Performance Report. This report summarizes how Western Illinois University is using priorities in *Higher Values in Higher Education* to advance the goals and objectives of the statewide strategic plan for higher education, *The Illinois Commitment: Partnerships, Opportunities, and Excellence*. As part of performance reporting to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), institutions are invited to submit two Effective (best) Practices. Last year we highlighted the First Year Experience at Western Illinois University-Macomb and the establishment of the Dual Career Program. The former was honored as one of four best practices in the state.

This year's submission highlights environmental and sustainability planning and the Learning to Lead Program. Information presented in your June 2005 *Strategic Plan Update* described Western Illinois University's environmental and sustainability planning (copy available at [www.wiu.edu](http://www.wiu.edu)). There is additional University sustainability information presented at [www.wiu.edu/newsrelease.sphp?release\\_id=4632](http://www.wiu.edu/newsrelease.sphp?release_id=4632). The information contained in these two sources was reported to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

The Learning to Lead Program was selected as Western Illinois University's second Effective Practice. It has successfully advanced many of the University's Strategic Plan goals including improving retention and graduation rates, providing special initiatives to enhance the educational experience and growth of students, and offering students with opportunities for leadership development. The University's submission in IBHE-required format is displayed below.

After reading about the Learning to Lead Program, please contact me if you have questions and/or recommendations for the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

#### **WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S LEARNING TO LEAD PROGRAM**

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Direct Connection to *The Illinois Commitment*: Western Illinois University's Learning to Lead summer internship program promotes active, engaged learning inside the classroom and in the workplace. With a carefully designed curriculum, clearly articulated student learning outcomes, and enriching cocurricular opportunities, the program directly enhances academic excellence and Illinois Commitment Policy Area 5: Illinois colleges and universities will be accountable for providing high quality academic programs and the systematic assessment of student learning outcomes while holding students to ever higher expectations for learning and growth.

Issue or Need Addressed: Employers overwhelmingly point to internship experience as the most important factor they consider in hiring new college graduates for full-time positions. Employers who hire people with internship experience can be sure that they are hiring people who know what they want to be in their particular profession. The Learning to Lead program is designed to give Western Illinois University students a decisive advantage in the job market; it develops their leadership skills and prepares them for the leadership roles they will be expected to fill.

Description of the Program: The Learning to Lead Program, open to all Western Illinois University students (Macomb and Moline) who have attained junior class status and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.8 (on a four-point scale), is designed in two parts. First, students participate in a four-week intensive academic program on the Macomb campus. Students are immersed in such courses as public policy analysis, multicultural

issues, business communication, and leadership development training. In addition to their classes, students attend a series of lectures, presentations, and activities. Next, students complete an eight-week field placement in Washington, D.C., with professionals and agencies involved in public policy. During their internships, students complete specific projects and are required to participate in formal meetings, lectures, and conferences.

Achievement of Sustainability: The Learning to Lead program was established at Western Illinois University in 1994. It has been maintained and supported since that time. This summer marks the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Learning to Lead program. During summer 2006, 17 Western Illinois University students lived in Washington, D.C., as part of the eight-week public policy internship program. The program offers students many internship opportunities with federal agencies. This past summer students completed internships at such agencies as the National Archives; the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; the Washington, D.C. Police Department; and the United States Park Service.

Results and Measurable Outcomes: There is both quantitative and qualitative evidence for the success of this collaborative program which is jointly sponsored by Academic Affairs and Student Services at Western Illinois University.

- The program is contributing to academic excellence. The mean cumulative grade point average of the last cohort of participants was 3.3 on a four-point scale.
- The program is contributing to diversification of the workplace. Seventeen students participated in the last cohort; of these students, six are African American and one is Hispanic.
- Public policy makers endorse this program. In addition to the internship sites mentioned above, Congressmen Lane Evans and Luis Gutierrez; the Offices of the White House; the Hispanic Association of Corporate Responsibility; and the United States Departments of Education, Labor, and Secret Service all sponsor internship opportunities for this program.
- The field placement experience is designed to provide students with the opportunity to work directly with professionals involved in public policy, and all of them have the opportunity to make direct contributions to public policy issues. An experience like this is designed to have a long-term effect on professional and leadership development, and students agree. For example, Pia Jeffries, a law enforcement and justice administration graduate student at Western, participated in the 2004 Learning to Lead program and called it a “once-in-a-lifetime experience.” “Learning to Lead was phenomenal,” Jeffries added. “Participating in this program enhanced my communication skills and taught me the true meaning of a committed community.”

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cc:      President Goldfarb                      CSEC President Williams                      Alumni Council Chair Green  
          Provost Rallo                              COAP President Spelman                      Associate Provost Clerc  
          Vice President Hendricks              Faculty Council Chair Solymossy              Planning, Budget, and IR Staff  
          Vice President Johnson                Faculty Senate Chair Rock                      Staff Secretaries Mason and Markert  
          Vice President Thompson              SGA Presidents Early and Ciasto              Administrative Assistant Kerry Yadgar

Table 1

Membership on the President's Technology Advisory Users Group and President's Technology Infrastructure Group

President's Technology Advisory Users Group

- Joe Rives, Assistant to the President, Planning Budget, and Institutional Research - Chair
- Dan Ciubancan, Development Research Analyst, Foundation Office
- Terry Clayton, Instructor, Computer Science and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Faculty Council Representative
- Christopher David, Instructional Technology Systems Manager, Western Illinois University-Quad Cities
- Mitch Davidson, Executive Director, University Computer Support Services
- Mike Dickson, Instructional Technology Systems Manager, Center for the Application of Instructional Technology
- Hunt Dunlap, Associate Professor, University Libraries and Faculty Senate Representative
- Bonnie Elder, Budget Analyst II, Planning, Budget, and Institutional Research
- Bob Emmert, Director, Electronic Student Services
- Rodney Greer, Faculty Assistant, College of Education and Human Services
- Elvin Hodges, Director, University Information Management Systems
- Betsy Hommel, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction
- Suzanne Litchfield, Procedures & Systems Analyst III, Registrar and Civil Service Employees Council Representative
- Kevin Lloyd, Budget Analyst I, Planning, Budget, and Institutional Research
- Martin Maskarinec, Professor, Computer Science
- Cyndy Moore, Manager, Telecommunications
- Kathy Neumann, Chairperson, Computer Science
- Ted Renner, Construction Project Coordinator II, Physical Plant
- James Schmidt, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- Jeanne Stierman, Professor, University Libraries
- Barb Taylor, Research and Instruction Consultant, College of Fine Arts and Communication
- Anna Valeva, Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Faculty Senate Representative
- Kim Wisslead, Instructional Technology System Manager, Center for the Application of Instructional Technology

President's Technology Infrastructure Group

- Mitch Davidson, Executive Director, University Computer Support Services -- Chair
- Scott Coker, Engineer III, Physical Plant
- Mike Dickson, Instructional Technology Systems Manager, Center for the Application of Instructional Technology
- Bob Emmert, Director, Electronic Student Services
- Elvin Hodges, Director, University Information Management Systems
- Cindy Moore, Manager, Telecommunications
- Joe Rives, Assistant to the President, Planning and Budget
- Karmon Runquist, Instructional Technology Systems Manager, University Relations