

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

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

Date: August 28, 2008

Re: August 2008 Strategic Plan Update

This month's Strategic Plan Update focuses on strategic planning activities associated with the start of academic year 2008-2009.

- Each vice presidential area has developed plans for the implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018*. This is currently being compiled. Highlights will be shared in *your September 2008 Strategic Plan Update*, and full details will be provided at your October 2008 Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting.
- Accreditation teams have been formed. At the start of the school year, I will seek additional representation from members of our governance groups on both campuses. Also, a university accreditation Website to support the work of the teams has been developed, www.wiu.edu/accreditation Teams will start their work this semester.
- The new Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Website has been launched, www.wiu.edu/qc Our phase I efforts focused on cleaning up and modernizing the appearance, enhancing user friendliness with adjustments made as a result of campus and community feedback, and beginning to add enhanced functionality. With regards to the latter, you will find that you can apply on-line and experience portions of the campus virtual tour, employers have the ability to post jobs on our new e-recruitment site, and giving on-line will be accessible, etc. We have many more ideas for phase II development which will begin soon and ultimately we will be working on the Macomb site as well.
- On August 21st Provost and Academic Vice President Thomas held a faculty assembly. The event showcased priorities and goals from *Higher Values in Higher Education* and included welcomes from President Goldfarb and the Provost, an introduction of new employees by college deans, the state of academic affairs address by the Provost, discussions of crisis on campus and in the classroom, and a session entitled *Teaching for Inclusion: Lessons Learned*. This session was presented by Dr. Diane Lee, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

As the University prepares for the start of the fall 2008 semester, I wanted to give thanks to the many students, faculty, staff, and community partners on both campuses as we worked together to quickly relocate from our current Quad Cities campus to the Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center after the severe storm that caused power outages for five days, the loss of 50 trees on our Quad Cities Campus, and the relocation of operations during summer finals week. It was a true team effort that enabled the students to successfully complete their summer semester on time and with very limited disruption.

Other examples of members of the Western Illinois University community engaging in social responsibility include easing recent flooding clean-up efforts with the Western Illinois University Civil Service Employee Council donating dozens of “Paw Pails.” These five-gallon buckets—named in honor of Western’s Rocky mascot—were filled with necessary cleaning supplies and other items. The pails were delivered to the American Red Cross in July for distribution to individuals living along the Mississippi River who were displaced by flood waters.

Likewise, students, staff, and alumni of Western Illinois University-Quad Cities also partnered with the American Red Cross, the Quad Cities Airport, and other agencies in an August mock airport disaster simulation to give airport staff and emergency responders the opportunity to practice crucial emergency response tactics.

As the campus relocation, paw pails, and airport simulation show, through *Higher Values in Higher Education*, Western Illinois University is an engaged partner supporting personal growth, educational and professional development in our host communities and our surrounding region. If you have any questions about or feedback regarding the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

cc: President Goldfarb CSEC President Lavin Alumni Council Chair Hoffman
 Provost Thomas COAP President Spelman Associate Provosts Dalling and Hawkinson
 Vice President Hendricks Faculty Council Chair Bailey Assistant Vice President Williams
 Vice President Johnson Faculty Senate Chair Devolder Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
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