

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

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

Date: January 27, 2009

Re: January 2009 Strategic Plan Update

This month's Strategic Plan Update is a special edition. Earlier this month, Western Illinois University's Scholarship Program that is administered by the Scholarship Office was named a "best practice" by the Center for Student Opportunity (CSO).

As described on its Website, www.csopportunity.org, "The CSO is an online clearinghouse of college programs and admissions information serving first-generation, low-income, and minority student populations." Monthly electronic newsletters from the CSO are sent to high school guidance counselors, prospective students, their families, and college and university representatives.

In highlighting Western Illinois University's Scholarship Office the article stated, "In 2006, the program distributed \$2.5 million in scholarship support. Western Illinois has an ambitious scholarship program and includes a number of offerings specifically for entering minority students, including the DuSable scholarship (\$1,000 per year, renewable at \$500), the Western Opportunity Grant (\$1,000), the Western Opportunity Scholarship (\$500 to \$2,000) and the Student Services Minority Achievement Access/Retention Grant (multiple awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000)."

Other institutions and programs recognized by the CSO in January 2009 were: Case Western Reserve University's and Truman State University's high-school to college transition programs, Georgia College & State University's Minority Advisement Program, Manchester College's Triple Guarantee Program, and Prairie View A&M University's Institute for Pre-College Enrichment.

Some of the programs described above focus on the college transition and initial student experiences, similar to Western Illinois University's statewide best practice on the First Year Experience. Through *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018* and comprehensive fundraising, Western Illinois University will continue its vision of providing statewide and national leadership in affordability by successfully implementing Strategic Plan priorities of:

- Promoting the University's affordability and cost predictability for undergraduate and graduate education.
- Achieving scholarship (and other) goals for the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses as part of the newly developing comprehensive campaign for Western Illinois University.
- Providing opportunities for students to learn about financial responsibility and become more proactive in solving financial problems.
- Developing, implementing, and supporting new and enhanced strategies for reducing the amount of student indebtedness upon graduation.

Progress on these and all other Strategic Plan priorities will be made at the annual planning and accomplishment presentations made by the vice presidents and areas that report to the President on April 30 and May 1, 2009. Times and locations will be announced in a future *Strategic Plan Update*. Information from these presentations will also be summarized at the June 2009 Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting in Moline.

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 Meixner Associate Provosts Dallingier 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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