

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: May 5, 2014

Re: May 2014 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides a link to *Annual Reports* and *Presentations* made by the Vice Presidents and Areas that Report to the President, accompanied by brief examples of the highlights in these presentations made to the university community on April 17-18, 2014.

Annual Reports and *Presentations* are available at www.wiu.edu/university_planning/annualpresentations.php. Academic year 2013-2014 was a very successful year for Western Illinois University and the advancement of priorities and goals in *Higher Values in Higher Education*. Just in the last year, the University:

- Received Illinois Board of Higher Education and Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools approvals to establish the University's first Ph.D. program, in Environmental Science.
- Maintained top rankings in U.S. News and World Report and the Princeton Review, and top rankings for service and support to military students, veterans, and their families in G.I. Jobs Guide to Military Friendly Schools, Military Times EDGE magazine, and the 2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges & Universities.
- Hosted Governor Quinn for the announced release of \$60 million to construct the Center for Performing Arts.
- Surpassed the \$60 million comprehensive fund raising goal, and increased the value of the endowment from \$16 million to approximately \$55 million.
- Celebrated the achievements of 1,031 students who were eligible for Fall 2013 Commencement Ceremonies, and another 2,389 students who were eligible for Spring 2014 Commencement Ceremonies.
- Increased the average ACT of first-time freshmen from 20.7 in fall 2012 to 21.1 in fall 2013, and minority enrollment as percent of total university enrollment from 16.1% in fall 2009 to 26.3% in fall 2013.
- Raised the fall-to-spring retention rate of first-time freshmen from 82% to 91%, and the number of Centennial Honors College participants from 516 in fall 2010 to 715 in spring 2014.
- Participated in the first cohort in the Higher Learning Commissions' Persistence and Completion Academy.
- Prepared to open Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront Campus Phase II on time and in budget.
- Completed construction projects, including the Grand Entry, Hanson Field Video Board, Steamline replacements, Thompson Hall renovation, and other campus beautification and remodeling projects.

There are many more accomplishments and plans documented in *Annual Reports* and *Presentations*. The Fiscal Year 2015 Strategic Plan Update and Fiscal Year 2015 Long Term Plan Update presented at the fall Board of Trustees meeting will document related plans and accomplishments. The Fiscal Year 2015 Performance Report presented at the winter Board of Trustees meeting will document effects of university plans and accomplishments on 50 key performance indicators, and how institutional performance compares to peer institutions.

If you have any questions about the information in this month's *Update*, and/or feedback for the continued successful implementation and reporting of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

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