

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


Date: August 23, 2017

Re: August 2017 Strategic Plan Update

The start of academic year 2017-18 offers opportunity to reflect on summer 2017 accomplishments, as the University continues to advance the goals and priorities of *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the President's Executive Institute. These topics and a review of individual faculty and staff accomplishments occurring during summer 2017 will be the topic of this month's *Strategic Plan Update*.

Academic Excellence

During summer 2017, Western Illinois University, its National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and three academic programs were recognized for their academic excellence and student success.

- The Princeton Review named Western Illinois University a “Best Midwestern College” for the 14th consecutive year in August, 2017. WIU was one of 158 regional universities, and only one of two Illinois public institutions included in “Best in the Midwest” category¹. Our inclusion with 657 other colleges named as “regional best colleges” comprise the top 25 percent of the nation's 2,500 four-year colleges, according to the Princeton Review.
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- The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) recognized Western Illinois University's chapter as a Certified Gold Star Chapter for the chapter's commitments to the ideals of the organization. NSCS is a national, not-for-profit, honor society that recognizes undergraduate students who excel academically during the first and second year of college. Nationally, the organization offers \$1 million in scholarships, awards, chapter support, and provides students with leadership and service opportunities. To be invited into NSCS, students must rank in the top 20 percent of their class and have a grade point average of 3.4 or above. The faculty advisor for the WIU chapter is Department of History Chairperson, Dr. Jennifer McNabb.
 - Recognized for exceeding standards of excellence:
 - The Commission on Accreditation extended accreditation of the University's undergraduate social work program for eight years.
 - The Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council extended accreditation of the University's master's degree in Clinical/Community Mental Health for 10 years.

¹ The “Best in the Midwest” listing includes data from institutions in 12 states: Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

- The International Literacy Association/Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation granted national recognition status to the University's reading specialist graduate degree program in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The emphasis of Western's program is K-12 licensure. It is the only program in our service region to have achieved this national designation.

Educational Opportunity

Beginning in fall 2017, students will have access to new educational opportunities. This includes:

- An undergraduate degree in cybersecurity on the Macomb campus.
- A master's degree in applied statistics and decision analytics; a post-baccalaureate certificate in business analytics; and a minor in human resource management at the Quad Cities campus.
- An online minor in economics and an undergraduate major in anthropology. WIU is the first college or university in Illinois and one of the few in the nation to offer the undergraduate anthropology degree online.

Personal Growth and Social Responsibility

In recognition of learning inside and outside the classroom, outreach to our host communities and beyond, and environmental stewardship:

- Western Illinois University's Eta Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Delta, an honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education, was named the 2017 Phi Beta Delta Eileen Evans Outstanding Chapter. The award is given to a chapter that demonstrates outstanding growth, development, activities, and outreach. The WIU chapter organizes events, hosts speakers, and supports fundraisers. Highlights during academic year 2016-17 included the Taste of India Scholarship Dinner and the annual International Bizarre.
- Western Illinois University-Quad Cities was the host site for the second offering of the Ready to Run program in June. Led by WIU Professor of Political Science and Director of Public Leadership and Outreach Dr. Janna Deitz, public officials and campaign consultants trained 90 women interested in running for elective office as part of the nonpartisan training program. U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos, of Illinois' 17th Congressional District, delivered the keynote address. Participants from across Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Washington, DC attended the sold-out event.
- Western Illinois University-Quad Cities received a federal grant of \$211,791 to continue its AmeriCorps program for service year 2017-18. WIU's program is a partnership between Student Services, WQPT-Quad Cities Public Television, and local educational providers to improve literacy rates of area children. AmeriCorps members work with classroom teachers at the Esperanza Center and Villa Montessori in Moline. Pre-and-post-test results have shown consistent increases in early childhood literacy throughout the four years of the program, including a 50% increase in the past service year.

This year's funding will also assist in the initiative's expansion into after-school programming. Partnerships are being formed with the Martin Luther King Jr Community Center and Broadway Church in Rock Island; and the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley, Butterworth Educational Center, Two Rivers YMCA, and Spring Forward Learning Center in Moline.

- Western Illinois University' Phi Kappa Phi honors society was one of four chapters to win a national book drive competition. The WIU chapter collected and donated 1,120 books to Macomb area schools and daycare centers. Twenty-two Phi Kappa Phi chapters from across the nation participated in this competition.
- Facilities Management staff completed nearly two dozen energy-saving projects during summer 2017, including:
 - Updating building HVAC controls to include building automation systems in Malpass Library and Western Hall.
 - Upgrading lighting to energy efficient LED by replacing almost 400 light fixtures and more than 3,300 light bulbs in Knoblauch and Brophy halls, University Union, Student Recreation Center, Malpass Library, and the Alumni House.
 - Installing, replacing and/or repairing over 10,000 feet of pipe insulation in Bayliss, Henninger, Thompson, Tanner, Lincoln, Tillman, Knoblauch and Western halls, Heating Plant, and Malpass Library.

With the completion of these projects, the University should save an estimated \$370,000 in annual electrical and gas utility costs.

President's Executive Institute

The community and economic development activities described above also advance the goals and priorities of the President's Executive Institute (PEI). Many more PEI activities are planned for academic year 2017-18. For example, the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will offer an event to help small businesses get started in the Hispanic/Latino community from 6-7:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24 at the Esperanza Center in Moline.



Speakers for the event will include Robert Ontiveros, Group O founder and chairman; Álvaro Macías, Ascentra Credit Union; Christian Guterrez, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Minority Economic Empowerment; Carolyn O'Connor, Esperanza Legal Assistance Center, Department of Justice-accredited immigration legal specialist; and Rock Island native David Johnson of ACCION.

In addition to the speakers, Quad Cities SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) will discuss grant money available for small-business accounting workshops and consultations. A more detailed listing of PEI events will be included in your September 2017 Strategic Plan Update.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees approved faculty tenure and promotion recommendations at their June 2017 meeting. Congratulations to each of the individuals listed below for their significant professional accomplishments.

Ten faculty members earned tenure.

- Dr. Rebekah Buchanan, English.
- Dr. Saisudha Mallur, Physics.
- Dr. Luciano Picano, Foreign Languages and Literatures.
- Dr. Jason Franken, Agriculture.

- Dr. Chunying Zhao, Computer Sciences.
- Dr. Carmen Keist, Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality.
- Dr. John Schafer, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.
- Mr. Henry Oursler, Art.
- Dr. Yong Tang, Broadcasting and Journalism.
- Ms. Tammy Killian, Theatre and Dance.

Ten tenured faculty members received promotions from the rank of associate professor to professor.

- Dr. Roberta Di Carmine, English.
- Dr. Yongxin Deng, Geography.
- Dr. Timothy Roberts, History.
- Dr. Brian Powell, Mathematics.
- Dr. Betsy Perabo, Philosophy and Religious Studies.
- Dr. Erin Taylor, Political Science.
- Dr. Craig Tollini, Sociology and Anthropology.
- Dr. Tamara Bories, Kinesiology.
- Dr. Todd Lough, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.
- Dr. William Hoon, Broadcasting and Journalism.

Eight faculty members were promoted from the rank of assistant professor to associate professor.

- Dr. Rebekah Buchanan, English.
- Dr. Saisudha Mallur, Physics.
- Dr. Jason Franken, Agriculture.
- Dr. Chunying Zhao, Computer Sciences.
- Dr. Carmen Keist, Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality.
- Dr. John Schafer, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.
- Mr. Henry Oursler, Art.
- Dr. Yong Tang, Broadcasting and Journalism.

Four faculty members were promoted from the rank of instructor to assistant professor.

- Ms. Kayla Mitchell, Economics and Decision Sciences.
- Ms. Joyce Runquist, Engineering Technology.
- Mr. Matthew Hughes, Music.
- Mr. George Turner, Music.

Eighteen staff members received promotions, recognitions from national organizations and/or the University. With their new titles or recognitions listed below, congratulations to:

- Dr. Andy Baker, Agriculture, 2017 Illinois Teacher Mentor Award, Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers.
- Ms. Jessica Butcher, Student Services, 2017 Council of Administrative Personnel Employee of the Year.
- Dr. John “Jack” Elfrink, Interim Dean, College of Business and Technology.
- Dr. Laura Frey, Chairperson, Department of Curriculum and Instruction.
- Ms. Andrea Henderson, Equal Opportunity and Access, 2017 Cathy O’Neill Couza Award for Outstanding Leadership in Diversity.
- Ms. Cynthia Lotz, Interim Director, Human Resources.

- Ms. Cheryl McCulley, Human Resources, Al and Elaine Goldfarb Civil Service Employee of the Month for August.
- Dr. Jennifer McNabb, Chairperson, Department of History.
- Dr. Greg Montalvo, Assistant Dean of Educator Preparation, College of Education and Human Services.
- Dr. Jill Myers, Director, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration.
- Ms. Danette Phelps, Office of the Vice President for Administrative Services, Al and Elaine Goldfarb Civil Service Employee of the Month for July.
- Dr. Renee Polubinsky, Interim Chairperson, Department of Kinesiology.
- Mr. Troy Rhoads, Interim Director, Facilities Management.
- Dr. Joseph Rives, President, National Association of Branch Campus Administrators.
- Dr. Eric Sheffield, Chairperson, Educational Studies.
- Dr. Alphonso Simpson, Jr., Chairperson, Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- Mr. Lorin Waller, Accounting Office – Property Control and Redistribution, Al and Elaine Goldfarb Civil Service Employee of the Month for June.
- Dr. Ron Williams, Vice President for Student Services.

As this month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows, the students, faculty, and staff of Western Illinois University had a highly successful summer advancing the highest goals and priorities of the University. Please also contact me if you have questions, and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of the University's *Strategic Plan* and the President's Executive Institute.

cc: President Thomas CSEC President Dorethy SGA President Cortez
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