

Western Illinois University

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 22, 2024

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WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 21-22, 2024

Western Illinois University

Macomb, Illinois

March 21, 2024 – University Union Capital Room

Motion to Convene to Open Session – 5:30 p.m. **Action**

Roll Call **Action**

Old Business

New Business

Motion to Convene to Closed Session **Action**

Motion to Convene to Open Session **Action**

Adjourn **Action**

March 22, 2024 – University Union Capital Room

Motion to Convene to Open Session – 8:30 a.m. **Action**

Roll Call

Public Comments

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of December 4, 2023 open, closed and December 5, 2023 open session minutes.

Review and approval of December 15, 2023 open session meeting minutes.

Review and approval of February 8, 2024 Board Retreat meeting minutes.

Chairperson’s Remarks

Mrs. Carin Stutz, Chair

President’s Remarks

President Guiyou Huang

Agenda Topic

Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 24.3/1

Finance Committee Report -- Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending Dec. 31, 2023
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 24.3/2

Purchases of \$100,000-\$499,999 or Exempt Purchases of \$500,000 and Above
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 24.3/3

Annual Debt Compliance & Management Report
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 24.3/4

Financial Aid Report
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 24.3/5

Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 2nd Quarter
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.3/6

Academic Affairs Report
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.3/7

Report on Contributions
(Vice President for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Athletics, Clare Thompson)

Report No. 24.3/8

Enrollment Summary
(Interim Vice President for Student Success, John Smith)

Report No. 24.3/9

Quad Cities Campus Priorities, Strategies, and Highlights
(Vice President of QC Campus Operations, Kristi Mindrup)

Report No. 24.3/10

Internal Audit Report
(Director of Internal Auditing, Rita Moore)

Verbal Reports and Updates

Athletics Director, Paul Bubb

Interim Assistant Vice President for Communications, Marketing & Media Relations, Alisha Looney

Director of Governmental Relations, Zach Messersmith

General & Advisory Group Reports and Comments

Student Government Association, Kyle Ramlow (Macomb)

Student Government Association, Ashley Danner (Quad Cities)

Faculty Senate Chair, Julia Albarracin

Faculty Council Co-Chair, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner and/or Dana Lindemann

Civil Service Employees Council, Jackie Price

Council of Administrative Personnel President, Paul Bubb

Resolutions and Action Items

Action

Resolution No. 24.3/1

Action

Separation Agreement and General Release and Authorizing Execution of Instruments
(Board of Trustees Chair, Carin Stutz)

Resolution No. 24.3/2

Action

Appointing Interim President
(Board of Trustees Chair, Carin Stutz)

Resolution No. 24.3/3

Action

Establishing Interim President's Salary
(Board of Trustees Chair, Carin Stutz)

Resolution No. 24.3/4

Action

Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition Recommendation
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards and University Budget Director,
Renee Georges)

Resolution No. 24.3/5

Action

Fiscal Year 2025 Housing and Dining Rates Recommendation
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards and Executive Director of
Financial Affairs, Ketra Roselieb)

Resolution No. 24.3/6

Action

Fiscal Year 2025 Fees Recommendation
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards, Executive Director of Financial
Affairs, Ketra Roselieb and University Budget Director, Renee Georges)

Resolution No. 24.3/7

Action

Fiscal Year 2025 Student Health Insurance Fee Recommendation
(Interim Vice President of Student Success, John Smith)

Proclamation - Appreciation - President Guiyou Huang
Mrs. Carin Stutz, Chair and Dr. Polly Radosh, Vice Chair

Old Business

New Business

Next Meeting

June 6, 2024 Closed Session - Macomb Campus in the University Union, Capital Room

June 7, 2024 Open Session - Macomb Campus in the University Union, Capital Room

Adjourn

Action

- The audio will be streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/WesternIllinoisU>
- Public comments will be held to a total of 30 minutes. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes for those speaking in person and 500 words for those writing. Those who wish to have your comments read, please email them to Athena Brooks at AM-Brooks@WIU.edu by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.
- Trustees will meet in person.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:
December 4, 2023 Open and Closed Session

Minutes will be available for review at:

http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:
December 5, 2023 Open Session

Minutes will be available for review at:

http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:
December 15, 2023 Open Session

Minutes will be available for review at:

http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Review and Approval of the Meeting Minutes of:
February 8, 2024 Board Retreat

Minutes will be available for review at:

http://www.wiu.edu/board_of_trustees/minutes/index.php

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/1 -- Finance Committee Report -- Budget and Financial Data
for Quarter ending December 31, 2023

All Funds						
	FY2024		% of	FY2023		% of
	Budget	FY2024	Budget	Budget	FY2023	Budget
Revenue						
State Appropriations	\$ 55,712,200	\$ 35,415,339	64%	\$ 52,067,400	\$ 35,165,064	68%
Assessed Tuition	46,414,600	26,679,039	57%	51,585,000	27,302,802	53%
Assessed Room and Board	20,014,614	11,386,602	57%	20,294,974	11,649,841	57%
Sales	3,563,700	1,962,954	55%	3,022,750	1,911,205	63%
Assessed Student Fees	4,658,254	2,670,458	57%	4,775,691	2,687,290	56%
Other	59,968,613	30,610,880	51%	61,001,212	28,709,994	47%
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 190,331,981</u>	<u>\$ 108,725,272</u>	57%	<u>\$ 192,747,027</u>	<u>\$ 107,426,196</u>	56%
Expenditures						
Personnel Services	\$ 104,000,000	\$ 44,611,195	43%	\$ 99,200,000	\$ 43,141,822	43%
Medicare	1,970,000	1,644,085	83%	1,945,000	\$ 1,325,276	68%
Commodities	3,560,000	1,409,971	40%	3,500,000	\$ 1,267,383	36%
Operation of Automotive Equip	620,000	227,457	37%	545,000	\$ 232,500	43%
Travel	695,000	280,416	40%	583,000	\$ 190,185	33%
Contractual Services	41,500,000	18,832,327	45%	40,650,000	\$ 20,683,695	51%
Permanent Improvements	430,000	669,800	156%	650,000	\$ 176,412	27%
Equipment	4,300,000	1,539,745	36%	5,522,200	\$ 1,575,225	29%
Telecommunication Services	325,000	148,282	46%	427,000	\$ 104,134	24%
Awards/Grants & Matching Funds	38,600,000	18,275,895	47%	47,033,000	\$ 20,292,325	43%
CMS Health Insurance	3,044,800	2,614,517	86%	3,144,800	\$ 2,521,516	80%
Other	10,950,000	8,562,967	78%	10,200,000	\$ 8,181,536	80%
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 209,994,800</u>	<u>\$ 98,816,657</u>	47%	<u>\$ 213,400,000</u>	<u>\$ 99,692,009</u>	47%

The Board of Trustees approved the Western Illinois University Fiscal Year 2024 All Funds Budget by source of funds and estimated object of expenditure on October 13, 2023 (see Western Illinois University Board of Trustees Resolution No. 23.10/1). Per Board approval, Western Illinois University is authorized to spend up to \$209.9 million during Fiscal Year 2024, and the President is authorized to make technical adjustments in budgets if necessary.

Following the approval of institutional spending plans, the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees shall receive quarterly revenue and expenditure reports to review the University's financial status and compliance with institutional spending plans. To be clear, concise, and transparent, the financials have been revised to a single chart that includes all sources of revenues and expenditures. This information has been presented in separate charts in prior years.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/2 -- Purchases of \$100,000 -- \$499,999.99

Purchases of \$100,000 - \$249,999

Vendor	Type of Purchase	Annual Amount (unless otherwise noted)	Number of Bids
Dell Marketing LP; Round Rock, TX	Microsoft campus agreement. Annual subscription for 2/1/24- 1/31/25.	\$115,959.28	IPHEC Award
Tremco: Cleveland, OH	Replace three sections of windowed curtain wall at University Union Sandburg Lounge.	\$134,672.50	IPHEC Award
University of Central Missouri; Warrensburg, MO	Subaward to conduct activities for the de-escalation training grant.	\$147,043.08	Exempt (Grant)
Real Training Systems LLC; Northbrook, IL	Subaward to conduct activities for the de-escalation training grant.	\$175,455.95	Exempt (Grant)
Board of Trustees of Southern IL University – SIU School of Medicine; Springfield, IL	Continuous order for psychiatric services provided by Dr. Wright.	\$200,000.00 estimated (will vary with usage)	Exempt Inter- Agency Agreement

Purchases of \$250,000 - \$499,999
Receiving Presidential Approval

Vendor	Type of Purchase	Annual Amount (unless otherwise noted)	Number of Bids
Illinois State University; Normal, IL	Subaward for oilseed pennycress project.	\$245,860.98 (FY24 estimate)	Exempt (Grant)
US Dept of Agriculture; Peoria, IL	Subaward for oilseed pennycress project.	\$286,771.76 (FY24 estimate)	Exempt (Grant)
Core Construction Services; Peoria, IL	Renovate the Early Learning Center located in Moline, IL	\$477,000.00	IPHEC Award

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/3 -- Annual Debt Compliance & Management Report

ANNUAL DEBT COMPLIANCE AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Pursuant to its responsibilities as set forth in the Debt Compliance and Management Policy (the “*Policy*”) adopted by Western Illinois University (“*WIU*”), on June 12, 2015, the Compliance Committee has conducted the annual review required by the Policy and has prepared this report to determine whether Debt (as defined in the Policy) complies with covenants and other ongoing requirements applicable to each issue of Debt. The following sets forth a summary demonstrating WIU’s compliance with such covenants and requirements.

RECORDS

The Compliance Committee has all of the records required under the Policy.

TAX COMPLIANCE

- (a) *Arbitrage Rebate Liability.* At this time, the Board does not have any rebate liability to the U.S. Treasury.
- (b) *Contract Review.* The Compliance Committee has reviewed copies of all contracts and agreements of the Board, including any leases, with respect to the use of any property owned by WIU and acquired, constructed or otherwise financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the Debt and other records. At this time, each issue of the Debt complies with the Federal tax requirements applicable to such issue, including restrictions on private business use and private loans.
- (c) *IRS Examinations or Inquiries.* The Internal Revenue Service (the “*IRS*”) has not commenced an examination of any issue of the Debt. The IRS has not requested a response to a compliance check, questionnaire or other inquiry.

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

- (a) The Compliance Committee has reviewed the agreements of the Board with respect to each issue of Debt to determine whether the Annual Financial Information and Audited Financial Statements were filed to the MSRB website in a timely manner. All such information was filed within the times required by all Undertakings.

- a. Draft FY22 Financial Statements have been submitted within the time frame prescribed by all undertakings and will be replaced with Audited Financial Statements, when available.
- (b) The University's credit rating from S&P Global Ratings was upgraded to "BBB-" in April 2023. A reportable event notice announcing the rating change was filed to the MSRB website within the prescribed time frame. The Compliance Committee has conducted a review and confirmed that there were no other Reportable Event Disclosures made this year.
- (c) A reportable event notice, Financial Obligation – Incurrence or Agreement, was filed in a timely manner to the MSRB website in December 2023 following the issuance of the University's Taxable Certificates of Participation (Technology Projects) Series 2023. The Certificates were issued to fund the implementation of the University's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system technology projects.
- (d) The Compliance Committee has conducted a review and confirmed that there were no other Reportable Event Disclosures made this year.

OTHER COVENANTS AND REQUIREMENTS

All issues of Debt are in compliance with all other covenants and other ongoing requirements applicable to each such issue under the related Debt documents. Based upon the foregoing, the Compliance Committee believes that no further action is necessary at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS RE: EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICY; OTHER MATTERS

The Compliance Committee has consulted with other WIU staff, counsel, the Municipal Advisor and other professionals in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Policy and compliance. The Compliance Committee has no recommendations for change in the Policy.

Members of the Compliance Committee:

Paul S. Edwards: Vice President of Finance and Administration
Ketra Roselieb: Executive Director of Financial Affairs
Jessica Dunn: Assistant Comptroller, Business Services
Deanna Eden: Assistant Comptroller, Business Services
James McNulty: Municipal Advisor, Blue Rose Capital Advisors

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/4 -- Financial Aid Report

The Financial Aid Office assists eligible students in meeting educational expenses while attending Western Illinois University. Assistance is provided through grants, scholarships, loans and student employment.

The mission of the Western Illinois University Office of Financial Aid is to provide all students and their families with resources for success through efficient and timely customer service, equitable disbursement of financial awards, and educational programming related to financial literacy. Through these actions, we aim to maintain a positive environment that will help create opportunities for equal access to post-secondary education and increase student retention.

Completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is one of the most important steps on the road to college. The FAFSA is the gateway to more than \$150 billion in college grants, work-study funds, and federal student loans, as well as certain state-based aid. It is important that students do not assume they are not eligible for financial aid and complete the FAFSA annually. Students who did not file a FAFSA in 2022 left an estimated \$3.6 billion in Pell Grants on the table.

Financial Aid Optimization Committee

The Financial Aid Optimization Committee met for the first time May 2022. The Committee began by attempting to identify the discount rate/net tuition revenue for first-time, full-time students. After calculating these we began reducing the discount rate and increasing net tuition revenue by trying to reduce expenditures in our institutional scholarships. Institutional scholarships are awarded upon acceptance to Western Illinois University. To continue this work beyond our original cohort, we partnered with Ruffalo Noel Levitz to determine a strategic financial aid optimization plan that would provide a strategic discount rate to attract students for retention/graduation while increasing net tuition revenue.

Below is a comprehensive list of internal processes that were implemented in Fall 2023 upon the recommendation of the Financial Aid Optimization Committee and approved by the Financial Sustainability Committee:

- All students receiving institutional aid are required to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Alternative Application for State Aid. International students are excluded.
- Institutional aid will cover institutional direct costs (i.e. tuition, fees, books, etc.). Institutional aid will have no cash value and is subject to the availability of funding.
- Defined an order of pay that will utilize funds strategically to reduce institutional expenditures.

- Eliminated the Leatherneck Visitor, Chicago/St. Louis Scholarship, Principal Scholarship and Illinois State Scholar Scholarship 2023-24.
- Eliminated the Leatherneck Book Award, Justice Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (JIDE) Scholarship, Reduced the Alumni Legacy Scholarship, and reworked the Western Commitment Scholarship to combine with the State of Illinois AIM High Grant for the 2024-25 academic year.
- Applied a higher GPA for students to renew Western Commitment Scholarship.
- Applied an admissions deadline for new freshmen/transfers to receive institutional aid.
- Set a registration deadline for new freshmen/transfers to receive institutional aid.
- Students who withdraw from the University will have institutional aid prorated (re-calculated) based on the percentage of the term completed.

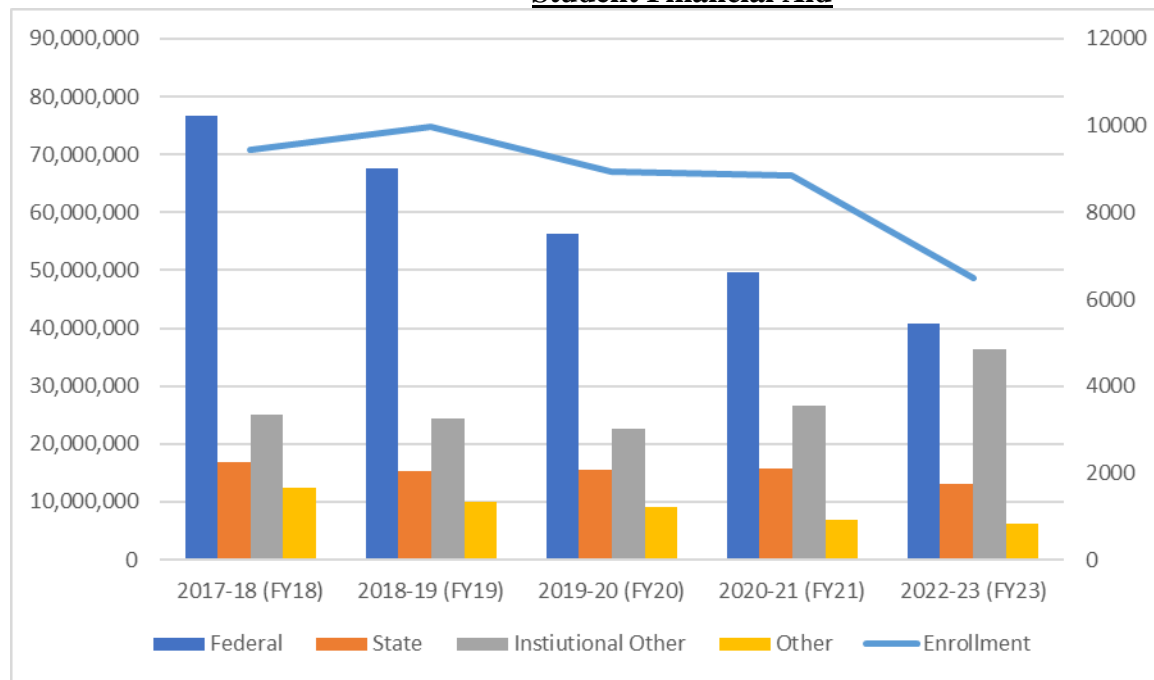
Ninety-six (96) percent of WIU students receive some form of financial aid (including loans).

FAFSA Applications

Total Applications	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
All Applicants	33,307	24,316	22,775	20,167	20,555	20,884*
Admitted Applicants	8,973	8,070	10,183	9,723	10,172	9,915*

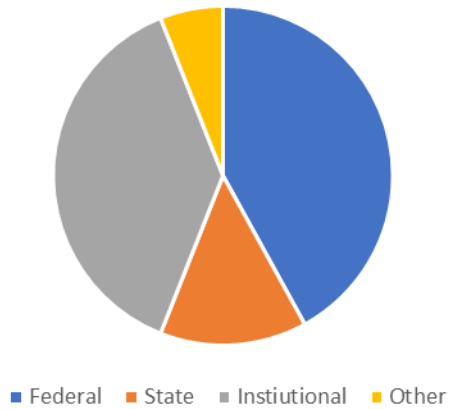
*as of 2/21/2024

Student Financial Aid



	Federal	State	Institutional	Other	Total
2017-18 (FY18)	76,729,329	16,753,674	25,061,118	12,319,207	\$130,863,328.00
2018-19 (FY19)	67,703,386	15,258,008	24,438,447	9,878,521	\$117,278,362.00
2019-20 (FY20)	56,221,121	15,420,417	22,631,338	9,010,069	\$103,282,945.00
2020-21 (FY21)	49,751,310	15,636,271	26,509,629	6,932,562	\$98,829,772.00
2021-22 (FY22)	45,683,541	15,442,733	32,334,550	6,229,797	\$99,690,621.00
2022-23 (FY23)	40,833,816	13,171,192	36,384,709	6,106,970	\$96,496,687.00

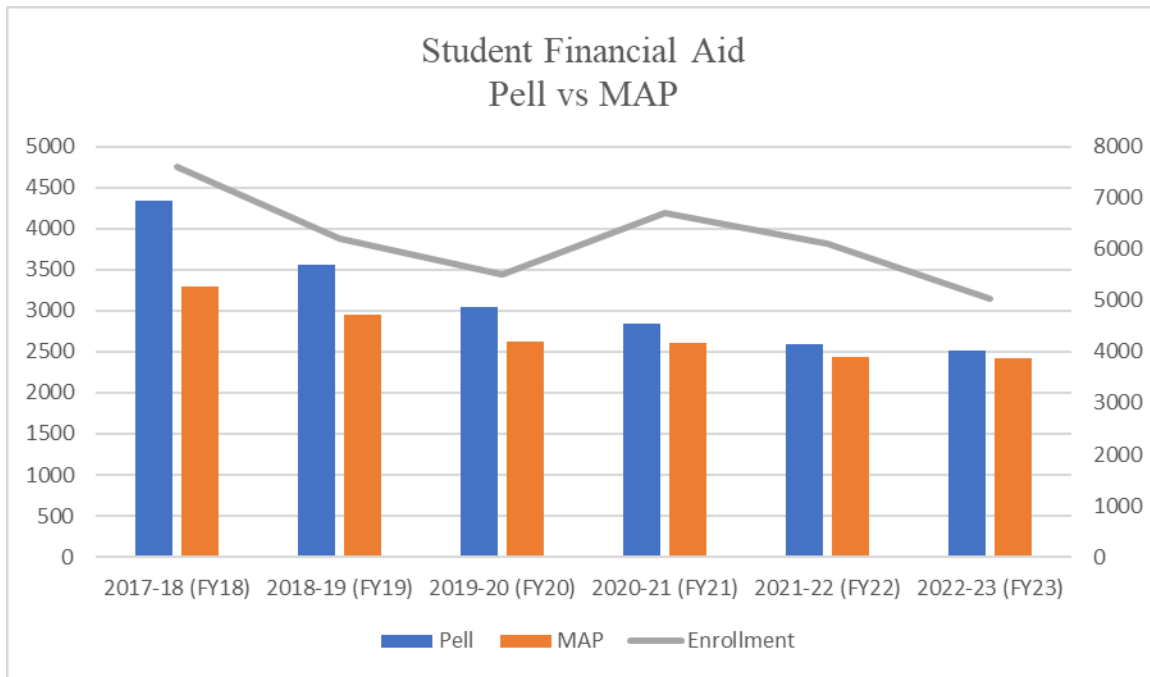
Percentage of Aid by Type (FY23: 2022-23)



% of aid by type	Federal	State	Institutional	Other
2017-18 (FY18)	59%	13%	19%	9%
2018-19 (FY19)	58%	13%	21%	8%
2019-20 (FY20)	54%	15%	22%	9%
2020-21 (FY21)	50%	16%	27%	7%
2021-22 (FY22)	46%	15%	32%	7%
2022-23 (FY23)	42%	14%	38%	6%

	Total # of students (unduplicated) receiving aid (including loans)	Unduplicated headcount	Percentage
2017-18 (FY18)	8,438	9,441	89%
2018-19 (FY19)	7,610	9,961	76%
2019-20 (FY20)	6,956	8,949	78%
2020-21 (FY21)	6,956	8,860	78%
2021-22 (FY22)	6,829	7,455	92%
2022-23 (FY23)	6,257	6,495	96%

<http://www.wiu.edu/IRP/factbook.php>



Federal Pell Grant	Total # of students receiving Pell	Unduplicated headcount	Percentage
2017-18 (FY18)	4,348	7,599	57%
2018-19 (FY19)	3,563	6,208	57%
2019-20 (FY20)	3,044	5,497	55%
2020-21 (FY21)	2,848	6,704	42%
2021-22 (FY22)	2,590	6,106	42%
2022-23 (FY23)	2,509	5,025	50%

Illinois MAP Grant	Total # of students receiving MAP	Unduplicated headcount	Percentage
2017-18 (FY18)	3,291	7,599	43%
2018-19 (FY19)	2,953	6,208	48%
2019-20 (FY20)	2,625	5,497	48%
2020-21 (FY21)	2,615	6,704	39%
2021-22 (FY22)	2,438	6,106	40%
2022-23 (FY23)	2,427	5,025	48%

<http://www.wiu.edu/IRP/factbook.php>

Purchasing Power of Financial Aid

When a student receives a full Pell/MAP grant the purchasing power of these two grants combine to cover 75% of direct costs (i.e. tuition, fees, housing/dining, and books).

Federal Pell Grant	Maximum Pell	Tuition/Fees (based on 24 hrs.)	Percentage
2017-18 (FY18)	5,920	\$9,013	67%
2018-19 (FY19)	6,095	\$9,013	68%
2019-20 (FY20)	6,195	\$9,333	66%
2020-21 (FY21)	6,345	\$9,379	68%
2021-22 (FY22)	6,495	\$9,663	67%
2022-23 (FY23)	6,895	\$9,953	69%
2023-24 (FY24)	7,395	\$10,278	72%

Illinois MAP Grant	Maximum MAP	Tuition/Fees (based on 30 hrs.)	Percentage
2017-18 (FY18)	4,869	\$11,266	43%
2018-19 (FY19)	4,869	\$11,266	43%
2019-20 (FY20)	5,340	\$11,666	46%
2020-21 (FY21)	5,340	\$11,724	46%
2021-22 (FY22)	5,496	\$12,079	45%
2022-23 (FY23)	7,200	\$12,441	58%
2023-24 (FY24)	7,200	\$12,848	56%

Cohort Default Rate

The cohort default rate represents student borrowers who entered repayment from October 1 to September 30 and defaulted on federal direct loans. Default is defined as more than 270 days delinquent. During the loan payment pause, these numbers have decreased significantly, but students will enter repayment again and it is imperative that we monitor and have a plan in place to address rising default rates. Institutions with higher cohort defaults can face sanctions by the Department of Education including but not limited to loss of federal student aid eligibility.

	WIU	National	Average Loan Indebtedness
2017-18 AY (FY2015)	8.4	10.8	\$25,600
2018-19 AY (FY2016)	9.5	10.1	\$24,900
2019-20 AY (FY2017)	8.8	9.7	\$23,200
2020-21 AY (FY2018)	7.9	7.3	\$22,530
2021-22 AY (FY2019)	3.2*	2.3*	\$20,821
2022-23 AY (FY2020)	0.0*	0.0*	\$19,104

**Federal Student Loan payment pause 2020-2023*

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/5 -- Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 2nd Quarter

Executive Summary:

Report on externally-sponsored grants and contracts and income-producing contracts received by the University provided to the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis.

Quarter to Date

Three Months Ended December 31	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Awards > \$50,000	\$6,309,257 (18)	\$4,918,241 (11)	\$5,805,878 (14)
Total Awards, (regardless of value)	\$6,440,272 (27)	\$5,075,013 (22)	\$5,971,980 (27)

Fiscal Year to Date

Six Months Ended December 31	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY22</u>
Awards > \$50,000	\$11,390,499 (28)	\$10,464,310 (26)	\$32,870,226 (26)
Total Awards, (regardless of value)	\$11,637,614 (45)	\$10,484,238 (49)	\$33,173,404 (47)

Summary of Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts

<u>Quarterly Totals</u>		<u>Annual Totals</u>	
<u>Quarters</u>			
1st	\$5,197,342 (18)	FY23	\$18,449,768 (88)
2 nd	\$6,440,272 (27)	FY22	\$38,562,123 (114)
3 rd		FY21	\$31,169,325 (121)
4 th		FY20	\$28,516,125 (117)
Total	\$11,637,614 (45)	FY19	\$16,631,791 (124)

Selected Sponsored Projects Funded by External Agencies in the 2nd Quarter FY2024

Grants and Contracts

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$62,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Date Received: October 11, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Hotz
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to ensure the ongoing operations of the Illinois Safe2Help program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$63,377
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Council
Date Received: November 29, 2023
Term: October 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Joel Gruver
Purpose: Research. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of increasing the duration of living vegetative cover and adding livestock grazing to a corn-soybean based cropping system.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$63,546
Grantor/Contractor: Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Date Received: November 6, 2023
Term: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025
Director/Fiscal Agent: Dawn Schmitt
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the Universal Service Support Grant (USSG).

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$75,000
Grantor/Contractor: University of Illinois
Date Received: October 9, 2023
Term: September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Josh Averbeck
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the WIU Broadband READY program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$79,934
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Community College Board
Date Received: November 10, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

Director/Fiscal Agent: Paul Sweet
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to develop and deliver an Alternative Method of Credentialing (AMOC) program within the I-Pathways system.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$135,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Date Received: October 11, 2023
Term: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
Director/Fiscal Agent: Ann Friederichs
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to fund the operations of the IL SBDC at WIU.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$136,777
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois State University
Date Received: December 8, 2023
Term: September 15, 2020 through August 31, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Winthrop Phippen
Purpose: Research. The purpose of this project is to conduct field evaluations of pennycress for agronomic traits.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$160,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Date Received: December 7, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Gisele Hamm
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the IIRA MAPPING the Future of Your Community Program.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$175,482
Grantor/Contractor: Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Date Received: December 4, 2023
Term: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025
Director/Fiscal Agent: Heather Norman
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support WIUM-FM operations.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$183,305
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Community College Board
Date Received: October 31, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Paul Sweet
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to provide funding for the I-Pathways program operations.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$186,950
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Date Received: December 20, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Richard Mathers
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to provide statistical evaluations of all Learning and Development Center (LDC) exams.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$195,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Community College Board
Date Received: October 31, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Joseph Ryner
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to support the services provided by the DAISI system.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$200,000
Grantor/Contractor: US Department of Agriculture
Date Received: December, 21, 2023
Term: December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Sean Park
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to improve the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand, or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through cooperative Business Centers.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$276,000
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Department of Human Services
Date Received: October 19, 2023
Term: August 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024
Director/Fiscal Agent: Karen Mauldin-Curtis
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to provide continued support to the Peace Corps Fellow and AmeriCorps Programs.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$608,605
Grantor/Contractor: Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board
Date Received: October 13, 2023
Term: July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025
Director/Fiscal Agent: Derek Watts
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to improve recruitment and retention of officers at WIU.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$747,198
Grantor/Contractor: US Department of Justice
Date Received: November 17, 2023
Term: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025
Director/Fiscal Agent: Kimberley McClure
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to create a virtual de-escalation training program for law enforcement agencies state-wide.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$749,789
Grantor/Contractor: Corporation for Public Broadcasting
Date Received: November 6, 2023
Term: October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025
Director/Fiscal Agent: Dawn Schmitt
Purpose: Public Service. The purpose of this project is to provide operating funds for WQPT.

Amount of Grant or Contract: \$2,211,294
Grantor/Contractor: US Department of Education
Date Received: December 31, 2023
Term: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027
Director/Fiscal Agent: Julia Albarracin
Purpose: Service. The purpose of this project is to improve enrollment, persistence, and completion rates for underserved rural students at WIU.

Additional Information

Number of First or Second-time Proposals and Awards

2nd Quarter:	<u>1st Proposal</u>	<u>2nd Proposal</u>	<u>1st Award</u>	<u>2nd Award</u>
	4	1	2	1
Fiscal Year to Date:	<u>1st Proposal</u>	<u>2nd Proposal</u>	<u>1st Award</u>	<u>2nd Award</u>
	7	3	3	2

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/6 -- Academic Affairs Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

College of Arts and Sciences

- **Julia Albarracin**, Professor of Political Science, was awarded a \$2.2 Million Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant titled “Addressing Equity Gaps Among Rural Students.” Funds will be used to hire first year advisors, admissions representatives, Leatherneck Success Leaders (for FYE classes) and peer mentors with the goal of supporting students’ holistic success.
- **Jordan Rouse**, History major was selected as the WIU representative and recipient of the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate award.
- **Dr. Amy Mossman**, Department of English, was selected through a very competitive process to participate in “Reimagining Humanities Coursework for Career Readiness” which is hosted by the Modern Language Association. She will participate in the workshop series throughout the spring of 2024.
- The **Department of Mathematics and Philosophy** has received approval to offer the B.S. in Mathematics at the Quad Cities Campus.
- The **Chemistry Department**, using grant funds from the Carver Foundation, has begun offering Chemistry lab courses on the Quad Cities campus. Twelve QC students are enrolled in CHEM 201, General Chemistry I (lecture and lab) in the first-ever Chemistry offering on the Quad Cities campus.
- Nursing faculty member **Ashley Frederick** was selected as a 2024 Nurse Educator Fellowship award recipient from IBHE! She will be receiving a \$10,000 award for professional and educational development activities.
- **Vaskar Nepal**, Department of Biology, received a grant in the amount of \$62,934 from Virginia Institute of Marine Science for "Forecasting the effects of climate change of Chesapeake Bay fisheries species using physiologically informed habitat models." The project duration is December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2024. The purpose of this project is to develop physiologically derived habitat models to better understand the effects of climate change on the location and the extent of suitable habitats for five Chesapeake Bay fisheries species.
- In an effort to assist with Library staffing shortages, **Dr. Richard Ness**, Department of English, was named as a new Fellow in the Library in order to help curate a film related collection in the Spring of 2024.

- **Dr. Casey LaFrance**, Political Science, was elected President of the Illinois Political Science Association and secured WIU as host of the 2024 annual IPSA conference at WIU-QC.
- Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Political Science **Keith Boeckelman** was recently featured in an article from WalletHub about voting demographics.

College of Arts and Sciences Departments

Chemistry:

- Two of Professor Soendergaard’s students (Tolulope Bolarinwa and Femi Egbeleke) were awarded a travel grant each (\$1000) from ASBMB. These grants are competitive and students from across the country compete for these.
- Professor Song has accepted an invitation by the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence to present a webinar based on his previous DOJ grant on June 11, 2024.

EAGIS:

- Five Meteorology students attended the American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD on January 28 - February 1. (Caleb Moore, Nicholas Albers, Robert Younker, LaDitra Mason, and Chris Hogan).
- The WIU Severe Weather Club poster won 2nd place at the American Meteorological Society Annual Meeting's student chapter poster competition in Baltimore, MD.
- Presentation: Jongnam Choi - Geography Awareness Week 2023 Presentation in Currens Hall.
- Seven geology majors attended the 75th Annual Tri-State Field Conference in Carbondale, IL on Nov. 11, 2023.
- Jongnam Choi and Samuel Thompson visited Kewanee Elementary and Junior High School

English:

- Barb Lawhorn earned her “In Mindfulness for Educators” certificate from Antioch University and will once again host her “Monthly Mindfulness and Muffins” series.
- English (with English Education Faculty leading the way) hosted the 9th Annual Writing Festival for area High School Students. Eight schools sent teachers and students. One hundred fifty students attended, and 21 WIU faculty from 7 departments helped lead sessions on writing.
- Two students, Maya Steinke and Grace McGill did a book talk podcast with Chea Parton on the topic of The Complicated Calculus (and Cows) of Carl Paulsen.
- Grace McGill, English Education Major, presented her research at the NCTE national conference.
- The English Department got a shout out from a national blog, “Girl Talk” for having the most diverse/female centric required reading in a national study. Here’s the link: <https://www.girltalkhq.com/a-startling-lack-of-female-author-representation-in-english-lit-degrees-across-the-u-s/>

History:

- Lee Brice - Peer Reviewed Book. Diet and Logistics in Ancient Greek and Roman Warfare. Warfare in the Ancient Mediterranean World vol. 8. Edited by J.F. Donahue and L.L. Brice. Leiden: Brill. 2023.
- Lee Brice with G. Tsouvala, G. Papan, and A. Papan “Quantitative Characterization of Archaic Magnifying-Lenses from Ialysos, Rhodes,” Journal of Archaeological Sciences Reports vol. 53 (Feb. 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2023.104320>
<https://authors.elsevier.com/c/1iF8M,rVDBfm0V>
- Lee Brice - “Pegasi and War: Patterns of Minting at Corinth in the latter 4th century BCE.” In Money, Warfare, and Power in the Ancient World. Edited by J. Armstrong, A. Pomeroy, and D. Rosenbloom, 105-26. London: Bloomsbury, 2024.
- Lee Brice - “Assessing Military Logistics and Diet in Ancient Greece and Rome.” In Brill’s Companion to Diet and Logistics in Ancient Greek and Roman Warfare. Edited by J.F. Donahue and L.L. Brice, 403-31. Leiden: Brill. 2023.
- Lee Brice with John Donahue, “Diet and Logistics in Ancient Greek and Roman Warfare, a Consideration.” In Brill’s Companion to Diet and Logistics in Ancient Greek and Roman Warfare, edited by J.F. Donahue and L.L. Brice, 1-16. Leiden: Brill. 2023.
- Lee Brice - “To be Continued: Considerations of Ancient Warfare in Film.” In Brill’s Companion to Ancient Greek and Roman Warfare on Film. Edited by K. Nikoloutsos, 559-80. Leiden: Brill, 2023.
- Ute Chamberlin gave a community presentation at the Henderson County Library on Nov. 8. The topic was "Collaboration and Resistance in WWII Europe."
- Peter Cole, interview of Rafeef Ziadah and Katy Fox-Hodess, "Dockworkers and Labor Activists Can Block the Transport of Arms to Israel," for Jacobin.com, November 27, 2023 <https://jacobin.com/2023/11/dockworkers-port-blockade-israeli-arms-solidarity-union-activism-gaza-war>
- Greg Hall, book review of Under the Iron Heel: The Wobblies and the Capitalist War on Radical Workers, by Ahmed White, Pacific Historical Review (November 1, 2023) 92 (4): 670–672. <https://doi.org/10.1525/phr.2023.92.4.670>
- Tim Roberts, presentation for Highland Community College "Global Taskforce Humanities & Culture Faculty Panel," online, November 16, 2023
- Peter Cole, “Remembering the Durban Moment after fifty years: a conversation with Peter Cole,” interviewed by Christopher J. Lee, Safundi, 23:3-4 (Fall-Winter 2023): 240-258.
- Peter Cole, “Dockworkers and Labor Activists Can Block the Transport of Arms to Israel. An Interview with Rafeef Ziadah and Katy Fox-Hodess,” Jacobin, November 27, 2023.
- Peter Cole, “Ben Fletcher: The Greatest Black Wobbly You’ve Never Heard of” (virtual), Labor Solidarity Project, University of Washington Tacoma, November 9, 2023.
- Peter Cole, “Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project” (virtual), University of Illinois Springfield, November 7, 2023.
- Peter Cole, Sarah Lazare, “This Union Is Famous for Opposing South African Apartheid. Now It’s Standing with Gaza,” The Nation and Workday Magazine, November 21, 2023. Kim Kelly, “The Next Target for Protests Against Israel: Ports,” In These Times, November 6, 2023.
- Peter Cole, “Historic Bike Tours & the Chicago Race Riot of 1919 Commemoration Project,” Faculty, October 30, 2023.

- Logan Lommel, BA in History Education and Department Scholar 2022, current MA student in History. Logan was one of six student - athletes recognized for dual excellence by the Ohio Valley athletics conference.
https://goleathernecks.com/news/2023/11/9/athletics-department-lommel-earns-prestigious-ohio-valley-conference-award.aspx?fbclid=IwAR2e9OVhZ2ezNt73ecv8T_cvByhx6p7GkP0qHHmk87c_Kj-MQSSEmaD7HBw

IES / ES PhD:

- Terri Billingsley-Tobias successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation research. Terri presented findings on her study of freshwater fungal diversity and ecological interactions with mosquitoes and plant communities. Her work has provided new insights into the effects that fungi found in plants can have on the hatching of *Aedes albopictus* (commonly known as the Asian Tiger Mosquito). This invasive mosquito is known to carry and transmit diseases that can impact humans, including dengue, chikungunya, and Zika virus. Her work adds new understanding that will inform future approaches to mosquito control.
https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=19635
- A paper co-authored by Dr. Michele Rehbein, the first graduate of WIU's Environmental Science Ph.D. Program, Jason Hunt, a Ph.D. Candidate and Prof. Viadero was recently accepted for publication in the Journal of the American Mosquito Control Society. Their work focused on modeling the effects of temperature, wind speed, and precipitation on the abundance of *Culex* mosquitoes and the West Nile virus infection rate.
- Madison Davee successfully defended her MS thesis on modeling real-time water levels in a small-scale wetland using breakpoint analysis. Madison was advised by Professor Viadero.
- Prof. Roger Viadero's new book, "Aquatic Environmental Systems" was released by Taylor & Francis Publishing on December 4, 2023.
https://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=19621
- Environmental Science Director Roger Viadero has been elected by the 9,000-member Ecological Society of America (ESA) to the Board of Professional Certification. Viadero is one of three new members of the seven-person Board that provides ESA with guidance and oversight of professional ecological scientists, establishes criteria for the peer review of certified ecologists and evaluates providers of continuing professional education units.

- "Aquatic Environmental Systems: An Interdisciplinary Approach for Scientists and Engineers," written by WIU Professor Roger Viadero, Jr., was recently released by Taylor & Francis Publishing.
- Western Illinois University is proud to announce a partnership with Corn Belt Ports (CBP) to establish a new regional office for the Upper Mississippi River Ports on the WIU-Quad Cities Campus. This strategic collaboration signifies a significant step toward fostering sustainability, enhancing transportation logistics and driving community and economic development throughout the Quad Cities region. "We are thrilled to collaborate with the Corn Belt Ports in advancing environmental responsibility, optimizing transportation logistics and fostering community and economic growth throughout the expansive CBP region," WIU Institute for Environmental Studies Director Roger Viadero said. "The placement of the CBP office at WIU's Quad Cities campus exemplifies our joint efforts to dismantle obstacles to collaboration. This marks a triumph for WIU, benefiting its students, faculty, and the Quad Cities community."

Mathematics & Philosophy:

- Dr. Rumén Dimitrov published a paper: R. Dimitrov and V. Harizanov, Effective ultrapowers and applications, *Aspects of Computation and Automata Theory with Applications*, World Scientific (2024), pp. 201-221.
- Dr. Elizabeth Hansen was nominated for the Ohio Valley Conference's Outstanding Faculty Commitment to Student Success Award. She was honored at halftime of the women's basketball game on February 8th.
- K. Felt participated in 6 webinars.
- Student Chirecce Robertson is nominated to be the Mathematics and Philosophy Department Scholar.
- Dr. Susie Brooks met with EICC in January to raise awareness of the Noyce grant opportunities for the transfer students, and initiated articulation agreements among EICC and WIU for the secondary ed STEM major degree programs.
- Dr. Doug LaFountain met with Black Hawk College to talk about virtual learning opportunities in the mathematics major at WIU. He is now working on a 2+2 Mathematics Education agreement with the college.
- Christopher Pynes presented a paper at the Illinois Philosophical Association meeting. The paper was "Thomson, Abortion, and COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates."
- Kathleen Felt participated in 10 webinars.
- Olivia Rueschhoff completed an honors project with Dr. Amy Ekanayake.
- Gabby Hoelzer completed an honors project with Kathleen Felt.
- Matthew Simpson and Cheyenne Duchay, mathematics teacher education majors, are 2023 recipients of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship.
- Request to offer the math major at the QC campus has been approved.

Nursing:

- Ashley Frederick, MS, RN was awarded a scholarship from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)..
- Senior nursing students organized and participated in 4 community-based health fairs at The Crossing after school program, Lamoine Senior living, Smithfield Meats and at WIU student union.
- Office Administrator Lura Krueger was selected Civil Service Employee of the Month.
- Western Express- Patty Eathington hosted 14 admitted students in the school of nursing on Friday December 1 from 1:30-2:15. Two were pre-nursing, others were biology, chemistry or other science majors. Activity included glow germs, handwashing and persona protective equipment in the healthcare setting.
- The WIU Student Nurses' Association organized a successful Winter Formal at Lake Hill Winery in Carthage, IL. The event was well received with over 75 guest including students, faculty, and alumni.

Physics:

- Research Proposal for Telescope Time: Hofner, P., Rodriguez, T, Araya, E. D., Carrasco-Gonzales, C. "The Accretion Disk in the High-mass Protostar IRAS 19035+0641 A", NSF National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), Very Large Array (VLA), New Mexico (January 2024). Proposal ID: VLA/24B-282.
- Research Proposal for Telescope Time: Rodriguez, T, Hofner, P., Momjian, E., Sarma, A., Araya, E. D. "VLBA Observations of Water Masers in the IRAS 19035+0641 A Jet", NSF National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA), New Mexico (January 2024). Proposal ID: VLBA/2024-00-084.
- Kishor T. Kapale: Designed and Delivered hands-on 16-hour workshop for 31 high-school students at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy during January 8-12, 2024, on "Developing Intuition for the Quantum Realm through Quantum Games."
- Kishor T. Kapale: Currently helping transition the robotics activities from the Department of Physics to the Macomb School District from grades 2-8. Overall participation has increased from about 20 last year to 200 this year. The school district's science teachers are helping mentor the activities and Dr. Kapale is serving as a mentor and supporter to the teachers.
- Aparna Kapale: In collaboration with Kishor Kapale and retired WIU Math Faculty Dr. James Olson, handled the Math Olympiad activities during the month of January for the middle school students. About 20 students of grades 6 through 8 are being served via this activity to enhance their interest in mathematics, to promote mathematical thinking, and to offer them competitive environment to develop a whole host of academically valuable skills and experiences.
- Publication of short monograph by a professional organization: Araya, E. D., Sanchez-Tovar, E., Rane, A. 2023, "ngVLA Science – Molecular Gas at the Core of Ionized Jets", National Radio Astronomy NRAO, December 2023 NewsLetter (<https://science.nrao.edu/enews/16.12/>)

- Computational Time Award for Teaching: Award at national high-performance computing facility (NSF ACCESS) for educational purposes: “TRA230031 - Using ACCESS Resources as the Teaching Platform of an Introductory Computational Physics Class”, PI: Esteban Araya, Western Illinois University. Awarded Resources: ACCESS Credits: 200,000.0 ACCESS Credits Indiana Jetstream2: 200,000.0 SUs.
- Kishor T. Kapale: Continuing Math Olympiad activities for the middle school students in collaboration with two mathematics teachers and retired WIU Math faculty Dr. James Olson. About 30 students of grades 6 through 8 are being served via this activity.
- Research proposal award: Svoboda, B., Ginsburg, A., Momjian, E., Araya, E., Rodriguez, T., Sarma, A., Tremblay, C., Ott, J., Hofner, P., Meier, D. “Flares, shocks, and YSOs: a systematic VLA survey of ammonia masers”, NSF National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), Very Large Array (VLA), New Mexico (August 2023). Proposal ID: VLA/24A-399, review and allocation decision received on November 2023 (8.00 hours at Priority B, 20.00 hours at Priority C).
- Research proposal award: Rodriguez, T., Hofner, P., Zhang, Q., Schilke, P., Araya, E. "Connecting Small and Large Scale Outflow Structures in High-Mass Star Formation," Submillimeter Array (SMA), Hawaii (September 2023). Proposal 2023B-020, review and allocation decision received on November 2023 (two tracks awarded).
- Dr. Esteban D. Araya, “Collaborative Research: JOURNEY: Jets and Outflows Revealing the Nature and Evolution of massive YSOs,” major external grant submitted to the National Science Foundation in collaboration with New Mexico Tech. November 2023. Outcome of proposal expected to be known by the Summer 2024.
- Amisha J. Rane, Punya Paudel, and Esteban D Araya, “P01.00012: Molecular Line Observations of Ammonia and Methanol towards Ionized-Jet Candidates,” 2023 Fall Meeting of the APS Prairie Section, November 30–December 2, 2023, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
- Punya Paudel, Amisha J. Rane, and Esteban D Araya, “P01.00015: Continuum Imaging of Three High-Mass Star Forming Regions,” 2023 Fall Meeting of the APS Prairie Section, November 30–December 2, 2023, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.
- Dr. Esteban D. Araya, faculty participant in the Macomb Youth Leadership Organization (MYLO) program. High-school student Tucker Baldi visited the WIU Physics Department in October 2023 to learn about the research activities and opportunities in the area of astrophysics. Graduate and undergraduate research students interacted with Mr. Baldi during his visit.
- Drs. Kishor T. Kapale and Pengqian Wang along with students Amy Aung (MS), Chelsie Henderson (BS) and Khokan Miah (MS) represented the Physics department at the 40th Annual Biology Day on Nov 3, 2023. Geographically nearby high school students visit WIU Department of Biology and learn about the future education options in different areas of science.
- Dr. Kishor T. Kapale represented the Secondary Science Teacher Education Programs at the Annual Future Teachers Day at WIU on Oct 27, 2023. Dr. Kapale led three different

30-minute sessions with hands-on puzzles for stimulating interest in Physics, Science, and Teaching among the prospective teacher education students.

- Dr. Pengqian Wang represented the Physics Department at the Discover Western on Nov. 11, 2023.

Political Science:

- Greg Baldi reviewed “The Conservative Party and the Destruction of Selective Education in Post-war Britain” by Piers Legh for the journal *Historical Studies in Education*.
- Casey LaFrance volunteered at a workshop for the 2024 Writing Festival at Western Illinois University on Monday, February 5. Everyone had a fabulous day and we are pleased with the result: 150 high school students from 7 area high schools attended sessions with 21 faculty from 7 departments (English, LEJA, Kinesiology, Political Science, Social Work, Theatre & Dance, and Race, Gender, & MS) and even one high school teacher. We heard great feedback from the students and their teachers. If you have ideas or suggestions for next year, please feel free to contact us (a-white2@wiu.edu; rj-buchanan@wiu.edu).
- Gregory Baldi served in December on the Fulbright National Screening Committee as a proposal reviewer for awards from the Republic of Ireland.
- Ghashia Kiyani’s publication may be found at:
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00220027231224022>
- Richard Hardy submitted a manuscript for publication in the *Illinois Political Science Review*, entitled, "A Plan to Resolve the Abortion Impasse." I am working on a book, "The History of the Western Illinois University's Department of Political Science." Dr. Hardy retired from Western on December 31, 2023.

All good things must come to an end. Rick Hardy began as a student at Western Illinois University in 1968, graduating in 1970, then returned as a faculty member and as an administrator in 2005 after earning advanced degrees and teaching at Northern State University, the University of Iowa, Duke University, and the University of Missouri-Columbia. It was nice to return to my roots and help repay Western for all the opportunities it provided me. I am now retiring from Western Illinois University, effective January 1, 2024. It has been an honor to serve as the Chair of the Department of Political Science, the Dean of the Centennial Honors College and as the Dan and Laura Webb Endowed Professor of Political Science. I have been blessed to meet and work with scores of great students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and civic leaders. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. Western Illinois University--Long May It Wave! Dr. Richard J. (Rick) Hardy, Dan and Laura Webb Professor of Political Science.

- Gregory Baldi served as a paper and panel submission reviewer for the 2024 conference of the Council of European Studies.
- Gregory Baldi served as an article peer reviewer for the journal *European Politics and Society*.
- The Political Science Department held a viewing event in Morgan Hall 109 for the Republican party primary debate.

- Casey LaFrance (IIAC Sensory Committee) secured \$1000 in grant funds from Central Illinois Autism Association and worked to secure an additional \$5725 on Giving Tuesday with SGA, Pi Kapp Phi, the Ability Experience, JIDE, Speech Language Pathology, WIU QC, and other partners. These funds will be used for sensory room supplies, equipment, staffing, and student support at each WIU Campus along with a VIRTUAL sensorium being created by WIU-QC Museum Studies faculty and students.
- Casey LaFrance secured an internship with the Autism Collective of Central Illinois (beginning Fall 2024) in Peoria, Illinois.

Psychology:

- Two graduate students in School Psychology visited their area high schools to recruit and share more about attending school at WIU and the path from high school through a psych major and into graduate school. High schools- Metamora and Peoria.
- Grant proposal submitted: Kurt-Hilditch, J. & McClure, K. A. (2023). Virtual Reality Training as Active Learning (ViRTAL): A Project for Law Enforcement Training and Collaboration to Foster Community Partnerships. Submitted to U.S. Department of Justice, Implementing Evidence-Based VR/AR/XR Police Training Through Emerging Technologies (DOJ O-BJA-2023-171886; \$3,914,476 REQUESTED).
- Manuscript accepted for publication: Stone, B.M.*, Hammersley, J., Rabinovich, N. & Gilbert, D.G. Effects of Nicotine Patches on Early and Late Attentional Bias to Smoking Cues: We May Know Less than We Think. (Manuscript in press, Experimental & Clinical Psychopharmacology).
- Jonathan Hammersley acted as a Content Consultant for an upcoming popular book publication: Teens Dealing with Addiction. Red Line Editorial, Inc.
- Jonathan Hammersley served as a member of the Item Review Committee, for Prometric's DSST National Substance Abuse Exam.
- New program development and approval: Approval for PSY 510 Foundations in Applied Behavior Analysis, new online course for Spring 2024.
- Leigh Ann Fisler was guest speaker in a psychology class on Applied Behavior Analysis and graduate school.
- Leigh Ann Fisler was guest speaker for AP Psychology class at Peoria High School about WIU and Psychology as an undergraduate major.
- The Psychology Graduate Programs visited the Quad Cities campus to attend a Graduate Panel and recruit students.
- Grant awarded: Kim McClure received a \$747,198 grant from the Department of Justice for the grant entitled “De-escalation Training through Active Learning (DeTAL): A Center for Research and Assessment to Foster Community Partnerships.”
- Grants submitted: Cruise, T.K. & McClure, K. A. (2023). Healthy Children Healthy Communities. Tracy Foundation Solicitation (\$15,000.00 REQUESTED).
- McClure, K. A. (2023). Students of Color Weigh-In on De-Escalation and Scenario-Based Simulation Training for Police (Association for Psychological Science – Small Teaching Grant Proposal; \$5,000.00 REQUESTED).

- Owens-Boone, N. J. (2023). Attempting to replicate first-person shooter task effects: Guns, not black faces, facilitate shoot responses. Thesis defended to the Department of Psychology, Western Illinois University, Nov 17, 2023.
- The Forensic Psychology Minor was approved for students on the Quad Cities campus.
- Psychology graduate programs attended the APA Graduate Student Fair Nov 2, the Truman State University Psi Chi Grad Expo Nov 6, and the Tri State Research Conference Nov 11 to recruit grad students.
- November 9th 9-11, Spoon River 10th Grade Career Expo; table demonstrations for undergraduate recruitment.
- November 10th, 10-5, Applied Programs Professional Development Day; with intern to faculty meetings, intern to student panel, and student professional development training on autism spectrum disorders.
- November 17th, 9-12, School Psychology Fieldwork Meet and Greet; hosted 14 area school districts and special education cooperatives from across Illinois and Iowa for current students to connect with potential employers for both internship and practicum training.
- Psychology Clinic collaborated with the University Counseling Center for the Single Serve Presentation on Self-Care Nov 16.
- Psychology Clinic presented on Stress and Anxiety Management to Facilities Management Nov 1.

Race, Religion, and Multidisciplinary Studies:

- Student workers Laniyya Strange and Isabella Macias produced a Black History Month display with posters for each day of February featuring accomplishments of African Americans in politics, civil rights, industry, the arts, and other areas. Laniyya and Isabella produced a similar calendar for December, featuring "Holy Days and Holidays" from multiple religious and cultural traditions.
- Amy Carr - Presentation to seminary students about clergy sexual abuse (via Zoom), in Jan Rippentrop-Schnell's Trauma-informed Worship class, Wartburg Seminary, December 4, 2023.
- Amy Carr - "Hospitable Courage in a Divided Church," with Christine Helmer, in Reflections, a publication of Yale Divinity School (Fall 2023), <https://reflections.yale.edu/article/faith-not-fear-varieties-christian-practice/hospitable-courage-divided-church>.
- Amy Carr - Author Response, Book Panel on Ordinary Faith in Polarized Times: Justification and the Pursuit of Justice, sponsored by Baylor University Press and Lutheran Scholars of Religion Network, American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, November 20, 2023.
- Amy Carr - "There Can Be Too Much Evidence for the Gods: A Tillichian Analysis of the Dynamics of Faith in Bujold's Speculative Fiction," Theology and Religious Reflection session, American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio, November 19, 2023.

Sociology and Anthropology

- Skousen, B. Jacob 2023 Invited talk “Collaborating with Tribal Nations: The Noble-Wieting Archaeological Project as an Example” given at a meeting of the Illinois Valley chapter of the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology, Lewistown, Illinois.
- Our recruitment and retention committee worked with Collin Burns in UTV to create a short promotional video for the sociology program.
- Professor Gblerkpor's guest speaker, Dr. Schroader, spoke to students about Archaeology careers (via Zoom) on November 17th.
- On November 29th, graduate students Jennifer Ofoe and Reza Karim and Professors Lora Ebert Wallace and Jacob Skousen spoke at an online event, "Nurturing Curiosity: Let's Dive into the World of Research."

College of Business and Technology

- **Amanda Gore: Ferguson Lecture - April 2, 2:00pm -3:30pm-** The CBT has secured Amanda Gore as the Ferguson Lecturer. Amanda Gore is CEO of The Joy Project, a business woman, an author and award-winning speaker. She is one of 4 Australians inducted into the USA Speaker Hall of Fame and works with small and large organizations in every industry - McDonalds, Westpac, KPMG, CISCO, AMP, MDRT, Flight Centre, Google, Remax, Disney, Hilton, The Direct Selling and many other associations, hospitals and schools to help them create cultures of joy and engagement and to bring the humanity and joy back into their organizations. Her presentations are very personal and funny experiences that embed powerful and relevant messages that are tailored to your desired outcomes, and connects with people's hearts. A luncheon will precede the 2:00 p.m. Keynote address. To learn more and sponsor a table, visit: <https://go.wiu.edu/AmandaGore>
- **Khan Oversees Cybersecurity Effort** - Dr. Tahir Khan was appointed Interim Director of the Western Illinois University Cybersecurity Center. During this appointment Dr. Khan will oversee the Cybersecurity initiative within the School of Computer Sciences, as well as the efforts in promoting and maintaining our National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education designation.
- **Beta Alpha Psi Remains Active** - The WIU Chapter of Beta Alpha Psi remains active and engaged with accounting professionals. All of the events have had significant turn-outs, with nearly 30 students engaged in each session. The chapter has hosted three significant events including a sit-down with leaders from the Illinois CPA Society, an exciting presentation with WIU Foundation Board and Executive Committee member, Rhonda Haffner, and most recently a presentation on day-to-day experiences in corporate accounting with John Deere accountants and WIU alums, Patricia Brunner and Tabettha Dungan. The Beta Alpha Psi student leaders will kick off their spring break by traveling to Indianapolis for the mid-year national convention, March 8th and 9th.
- **Google Cybersecurity Clinic Grant Submitted for Consideration** - Drs. Tahir Khan and George Mangalaraj have submitted a proposal for a \$1M Google Cybersecurity Clinic. If funded, the Clinic will provide outreach and services to regional small businesses, local

government, and the agriculture sector. The Clinic would partner with other regional entities to help identify and address cybersecurity challenges in underserved rural areas.

- **Cybersecurity Competition Announced** - The School of Computer Sciences, Cybersecurity faculty, and the Cybersecurity Enthusiasts Club will host a cybersecurity competition on April 27. The competition coincides with Discover Western, will be promoted to high schools and two-year colleges, and will introduce potential freshman and transfer students to our program.
- **National Retail Federation Engaged** - Three undergraduate students represented WIU's School of Management and Marketing at the 2024 National Retail Federation-Student Program in January. Leah Ahlers-WIU Student Ambassador 2024 (Marketing), Madison Butts-Ray Greenly Scholar (Supply Chain Management), and Kaitlyn Moon-Rising Star Recipient (Management) attended the 2-Day program in New York City along with over 1300 college students. The students explored unique opportunities in retail and expanded their knowledge of the dynamic world of the retail industry. They heard from retail executives from various areas including Marketing, Management, Supply Chain, Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Human Resources. Career paths were also explored at the career fair featuring almost 30 retail companies. All three of the students attended the NRF-Student Program on Scholarships provided by the National Retail Federation.
- **Future Business Leaders of America Hosted on Campus** - WIU hosted approximately 250 students from 10 area high schools for the annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) regional conference. The daylong event featured several meetings for the students, guest speakers, and featured an interactive "Meet the Majors" event in which the students interacted with over a dozen WIU faculty and students to learn more about the different majors in Business and Cybersecurity.
- **Illinois Teacher of the Year Cohort Announced** - Two WIU Agricultural Education alums have been recognized by ISBE for "Illinois Teacher of the Year Cohort" for their respective regions. Mallory Tolley '09 (Agriculture teacher at Knoxville HS) is the West Central Region finalist and Stacey Rickard '09 (Agriculture teacher at Salt Fork HS) is the East Central Region finalist. We are excited not only to have one alumna selected, but two is even better.
- **School of Agriculture secures \$136,000 Grant** - Dr. Win Phippen was able to secure a \$136,000 grant from Illinois State University to conduct Pennycress field trials for ergonomic traits in the summer of 2024. The project title is: "Interrogating Pennycress natural and induced variation to improve abiotic stress tolerance and oilseed crop resilience."
- **Ag Recognizes Distinguished Alumni** - Five distinguished alumni from the School of Agriculture were recognized on Feb 17, 2024 for their efforts and accomplishments in the agricultural industry. This event was coordinated with the 2024 Ag Expo held in Western Hall on Feb 17th and 18th.
- **Agriculture Facility Upgrade** - A \$25,000 renovation project is in progress at the Livestock Center on the University Farm. A Compeer grant and Ag Legacy funds will be utilized to lay new flooring in the main hallway, classroom, and bathroom facilities in the

Livestock Center. These three spaces will also receive new baseboards along with the new flooring. New bathroom fixtures will also be installed with this renovation project.

- **Bull Test Sale Scheduled** - The 52nd Bull Test Sale will be held on March 8th at 6:00 pm at the Livestock Center, where the School of Agriculture will have four university bulls that were in the test up for sale that evening. We are super excited to showcase the seedstock that was raised at the university to livestock producers in attendance that night.
- **Engineering Continues Accreditation Efforts** - Ongoing efforts towards reaccreditation of the four Engineering degrees continues. Timely responses to all ABET requests have been submitted and final submission of documentation will be required in June. Additional accreditation activities for the WIU Construction and Facilities Management program are being explored via the American Council on Construction Education and the accreditation process will initiate in the Fall of 2024.
- **Engineering Week Engages the Next Generation** – On February 21st, 85 middle school students and several STEM teachers participated in a coding workshop in Riverfront Hall in Moline. They were divided into four groups to do a variety of activities, including hands-on coding activities and campus/lab tours (Electrical Engineering Lab, Maker Space, Machine Shop, WQPT, ESports Room, RF Atrium, and QCC Atrium). The event was coordinated and conducted by Engineering students, including the ACE officers. Participating teachers expressed their gratitude and commitment to bring more students to events and activities of this kind.
- **Scrambled Eggs Promote Engineering** – The WIU Women in Engineering (WIE) organized an Egg Drop challenge aimed at inspiring students from local high schools. The students competed at their respective schools first, and winning teams participated during Engineering Week at WIU. Each group was tasked with designing an optimal egg protection case using engineering techniques and scientific knowledge. In addition to the competition, WIE members led campus tours, showcasing facilities.
- **Renewable Energy Grant Application In-process** - A concept paper has been successfully submitted outlining grant activities proposed for The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies 4 (SEEDS 4) funding opportunity. The program will award up to \$7 million for social science research that generates actionable insights that can improve large-scale solar (LSS) siting processes and outcomes for host communities.

College of Education and Human Services

CNED/CSP

- **LGBTQ+ Clinic – On QC Campus**-Spring 2024 Clinical Mental Health Internship II students now have an option to work with the LGBTQ+ clients as part of their clinical placement and provide Letters of Support for those transitioning, or those seeking hormones, or top and/or bottom surgery. Students receive supervision from Dr. Haley Wikoff, director of the LGBTQ+ Lab. This is a unique opportunity for counseling students to provide a much-needed service to this population. Trans folks all over the world face challenges simply by existing in systems that often do not provide the support to be able to thrive. The WIU Counseling Program is proud to be part of this important endeavor in

affirming and empowering trans individuals and teaching counselors-in-training inclusive practices.

- **Dr. Matthew Beck and Dr. Haley Wikoff:** Offered a 12-hr Clinical Supervision Training in conjunction with the Illinois School Counselor Association (February 9th-10th at the Tinley Park Convention Center). This training is designed to provide supervisors with skills to address and design meaning clinical supervision for school counselors. This is pilot training that is fairly uncommon in the field of school counseling.
- **Dr. Leslie O’Ryan:** Partnered with local agencies to submit grants for funding as part of her CN 521 Standards of Management and Care course. The students have partnered with their agencies and are now completing grants for funding.
- **Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling Programs:** Hosted a Virtual Open House on January 24, 2024.
Held an Annual Interview Day (February 16th-in person and Feb 19th via Zoom).
- **Dr. Julie Brines** and graduate student **Nikisha Smith:** Presenting on Supporting the Success and Belonging of International Graduate Students at the American College Personnel Association conference in March, and at the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education conference.
- **Six CNED Students:** Attended the Annual Conference of the European Branch of the American Counseling Association. With five of these students were volunteers who assisted in various capacities.
- **Two CNED Students:** Presented a poster presentation at the Annual Conference of the European Branch of the American Counseling Association.

Health Sciences/Social Work

- Dr. Maureen Bezold and alum Ms. Bethanie Albrecht are hosting a full day training for the Medical Reserve Corps of Illinois.
- Professor Kaycee Peterman has presented two "Your Future in SW" events – *Graduate School Q&A* on 2/19 and *Studying & Test Taking Tips* on 2/29.
- March is Social Work month. On March 4, Mayor Mike Inman will be signing a proclamation at the City Council meeting recognizing the important work of social workers.
- The Social Work Student Diversity Council is planning a Self-Care Event for all SW students for March.
- Members of Social Work’s student groups (SWSA, Phi Alpha, and the SW Diversity Council) are collaborating to plan an event for all SW students at Horn Field Campus for April.
- Dr. Debra Allwardt presented a workshop for high school students on Writing Case Notes for the 2024 Writing Festival at WIU on Monday, Feb 5.
- Professor Kaycee Peterman presented at the Industry/Rushville HS Career Day on March 1, representing WIU and SW.
- Professor Lori Smith Okon and several SW students participated in a Wellness Day at Macomb High School.
- The MPH Journal Club had a meeting on Friday, February 23. Alum, Precious Diaz, who is currently in a Ph.D. program at University of Alabama – Birmingham, presented on her thesis work to interested students and faculty.

KIN

- Physical Education Teacher Education February 2024 Illinois Educator Preparation Profile
Program Renewal
Exemplary and Reinstated with Distinction
Knowledge and Skill for Teaching
Exemplary
Candidate Selection and Completion
Commendable
Performance of Classroom Teachers
Commendable
Contribution to State Needs
Exemplary
Overall
Exemplary
- Hosted WIU Unified Intramural Volleyball on January 27, 2024.
- Dr. Narvaez attended the International Biomechanics Advisory Board at the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon.
- Dr. Park attended the ASMA (Applied Sport Management Association) conference and gave the presentation titled *Understanding the discourse on sport and sustainability: Critical discourse analysis of sport and sustainability podcasts*.
- Fourteen students graduated last Fall 2023 including four Sport Management, four Kinesiology, two Exercise Science, and four Physical Education Teacher Education.
- Four new GA-TAs starting in the Spring 2024 semester including Taio Oladimeji, Nana Amankwah, Ritesh Ahri and Sanjay Ladumor.
- Emailed about 1,500 digital postcards to prospective students and mailed flyers for the graduate program to about 60 universities in the region and to approximately 40 prospective students.
- The Department received donated medical equipment from MDH including a treadmill, an EKG cart and a practice model for learning electrode placements.
- Fall 2023 Kinesiology graduate Ann Kisi passed the New York licensure exam in Physical Therapy.

LEJA

- Numerous publications, presentations and professional development completed by LEJA faculty including, but not limited to creating a Loss Prevention Qualification [LPQ] and Loss Prevention Certification [LPC] course for security administration students (LEJA 309; LEJA 443). The LPQ and LPC represent the gold standard of best practices within the loss prevention community worldwide.
- New course EM 461 Business and Industry Emergency Management for spring 2024 semester.
- New course FS 477 Data Driven Safety and Risk Reduction Applications to be offered fall 2024.

- Revised entire Paramedic Curricula from 5 courses to 16 to comply with accreditation suggestions under revision for fall 2024.
- Revised the Fire Protection major and all options (under review process for fall 2024).
- In addition to WIU sponsored events, we attended or will be attending school visits where we provide in-class instruction and demonstrations: LaSalle-Peru; Fox Valley; Technology Center of DuPage; Indian Valley; Will County technical schools; Rushville-Industry Career Fair on Friday, March 1.
- Advanced Medical Transport-Resuscitation Academy tour and hands-on experience for Paramedics/Emergency Management and Fire Students. February 29th, Peoria, IL.
- LEJA Open House (Public Safety Showcase) Grand Ballroom March 6, 2024 expected 250+ prospective students.
- ATF Recruitment Event March 20, 2024 LEJA, Military Science, and WIU student Athletes invited.
- Get-A-Taste - recruiting event set for April 1st at the Quincy Regional Training Facility.
- Public Safety Career Fair April 23, 2024 in the Grand Ballroom of Macomb campus.
- Mock Trial Team Competition - the American Mock Trial St. Louis Regionals at Wash U in St. Louis from February 17th to 18th.
- Fire Fraternity: Monthly trips to Carthage Fire Dept for joint training.
- Quincy Day - field trip to Quincy Regional Training Center for hands-on fire training
- Fire students conducted smoke detector event in Macomb (with Red Cross) and installed 49 detectors in low-income housing.
- Assisted with the planning and implementation of the Alzheimer's Association Walk in Macomb.
- Bureau Chief Cordelia Coppleson of the Law Enforcement Training at the Illinois Attorney General's Office presented her field of work to the LEJA professional fraternities on February 22, 2024.
- Luke Peterson – President/CEO of Firefighter Straps, Inc. presented a discussion on entrepreneurial opportunities for full-time firefighters.
- Fire Department Instructors Conference – FDIC Group of 8 students and staff spend 1 week at the conference, helping to staff the Event and network with programs across the country. Students have the opportunity to serve as classroom hosts and introduce guest speakers, collect evaluations and take attendance. In exchange, all expenses are paid for the week and students get to spend a portion of the time attending fire service training for free.
- Spring 2024 Firefighter Academy- This 6-week, residential academy provides 6 credit hours of academic credit and takes place at the Quincy Regional Training Facility. Students spend the entire time immersed in a Pro Board-certified academy that covers all basic firefighting, hands-on skills. At the end of the 6 weeks, the students take the National Pro-Board certification exam.

RPTH

- The Summer Opportunities Fair was attended by 191 students seeking internships and employment at Summer Camps, Park Districts, and other RPTH related agencies and businesses.
- Dr. Megan Owens brought in a very dynamic speaker named Earl Hunter, Jr., founder and president of Black Folks Camp Too, the evening before the Summer Opportunities Fair for an open presentation that was attended by 59 students and others from the community

including Macomb Mayor Mike Inman and Rachel Lenz, Executive Director of the Macomb Park District.

- RPTH hosted an Alumni and Friends Social on January 27th in conjunction with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association Conference in Chicago. Many alumni were in attendance and ways they could help the department and students were discussed.
- RPTH student Erin Mudd was presented the coveted Golden Spoon for her winning cookies in the RPTH Bake Off.
- Ms. Mindy Pheiffer continues to host various groups at Horn field Campus in a myriad of activities that are recruitment events and community building as well.

College of Fine Arts and Communication

Performances, recitals, lecture presentations and recruiting events, so far just for the 2023 Fall semester we have racked up an impressive attendance/participation rate with just over 18,000 people on our campus.

The Center for Performing Arts



Over the last days of February, the massive roof trusses were lifted into place capping off the Great Hall and stage house. 6 total trusses, totaling over 130 TONS of steel are secured and ready.

Rocky On Parade

We are excited to announce the 2024 edition of Rocky on Parade.



Since 2013, we've placed 111 Rocky dogs in the community. This project represents a true "town & gown" effort and this year we aim to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Western Illinois University by creating our 125th (or more!) Rocky dog.

Sponsor information

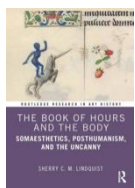
* The "Big Dog" sponsorship is **\$2,200** which includes a donation of \$1,000 to the WIU Art & Design scholarship

* The "Alpha Dog" sponsorship is **\$4,000** which includes a donation of \$1,800 to the WIU Art & Design scholarship

* We kindly ask that you return a completed sponsor form by **March 28th**

And yes, the rumors are true . . . this will be our final edition of Rocky dogs: *Rocky on Parade: The Final Round!* This is your invitation to sponsor your own Rocky dog!

Department of Art and Design



Dr. Sherry Lindquist new book, *The Book of Hours and the Body: Somaesthetics, Posthumanism, and the Uncanny*, was released 29 February to excellent reviews. (Routledge, 2024)

Ms. Susan Czechowski is taking 7 students to the Southern Graphics International Conference and is raising \$3000 through the *Printworks Fundraiser* to help students pay for the trip.



Art and Design Alum Joe Morzuch is opening a gallery show in London in April of 2024.

Department of Broadcasting and Journalism

Broadcasting and Journalism students continue to do outstanding coverage of WIU Men's and Women's Basketball, in collaboration with ESPN Plus and WIU Athletics.

Broadcasting and Journalism alumni were working hard at the 2024 Super Bowl.



Alum Mario Calero produced for Nickelodeon and Alum Joe Musick produced for Univision.

On February 17, 2024, *The Western Courier* and Editor-in-Chief Jaycie Doerr (Broadcasting & Journalism) had an excellent showing at the 2024 Illinois College Press Association Award Ceremony in Chicago, Illinois, Jaycie and the *Courier* received multiple accolades for their outstanding work.



The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) held a panel on February 23 to discuss cultural competency and improving experiences across our community.

Members of organizations and departments from across campus participated in the panel, which was organized by the NABJ students.

Faculty and students from the Western Illinois University Department of Broadcasting & Journalism enjoyed visiting WIU's QC Campus and WQPT Public Television.

BC&J alum Shaun Newell (Class of 2002) and colleagues from WMBD-TV (Peoria, IL) spoke to our Broadcasting and Journalism classes on February 20. Shaun is WMBD Vice President/General Manager.



The Department of Broadcasting and Journalism was delighted to host the Macomb Youth Leadership Organization (MYLO) on the 3rd Floor of Sallee Hall on February 13.

The Department of Broadcasting and Journalism, Tri States Public Radio and The WIU Museum are planning a collaborative event focused on podcasting and audio storytelling, aimed at local high schoolers and middle school students from around the region. The event will take place in late April. The goal is to show young adults how they can use podcasts to tell stories and also to build relationships between media organizations and local residents.

Department of Communication



Dr. Chris Carpenter co-authored and published a new book entitled "The Science of Gaining Compliance."

Shahed Rahman, Communication Graduate Student, earned the Top Student Paper Award in the Technology and Communication Interest Group of the Central States Communication Association. His paper is entitled "*Exploring the Impact of Social Media Use on Attitudes towards Advertising, Ad Engagement, and Perceived Annoyance.*"

The Department of Museum Studies

Dr. Heidi Lung submitted a grant proposal, Mentorship and Leadership at All Levels (MLAL), to the Institute for Museum and Library Service, a multifaceted and collaborative program to increase museum career awareness and overcome financial barriers graduate students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. Request for \$250,000 funding. The MST 502 Museum Exhibitions course collaborates with Initiatives in the Accessibility Committee on the Sensory Project, featuring an inclusive website with a virtual sensorium. The virtual sensorium, skillfully developed by WIU-Quad Cities Museum Studies Faculty Angela McClanahan-Simmons, is designed to cater to online students, ensuring they can equally benefit from the initiatives. This innovative approach underscores the commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, extending the reach of our

initiatives to all members of our diverse community.

WIU Museum Studies hosted three program recruitment information sessions in February. Over 20 students learned about the WIU Museum Studies program and got to talk with faculty and students currently in the program.

WIU Museum Studies graduate students engage in graduate assistantships and internships at Quad City partner museums and organizations:

- Bix Beiderbecke Museum and Archive, Davenport, IA
- Butterworth Center and Deere-Wiman House, Moline, IL
- Family Museum, Bettendorf, IA
- Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA
- German American Heritage Center and Museum, Davenport, IA
- Putnam Museum and Science Center, Davenport, IA

WIU Museum Studies completed a redesign of the program website.

The School of Music



The School of Music presented the annual Showcase of Bands February 22–24 featuring guest clinician Alfred Watkins, guest composer Ryan George, and bands from Mehlville High School, Metamora Township High School, and Normal West High School, as well as students selected through a nomination process for the Honor Band.

The University Singers under the direction of Dr. Brian Winnie performed at the Midwestern American Choral Directors Association Conference in Omaha, NE, February 7–9. The University Singers are one of only a few collegiate choirs to be invited following a competitive application process including hundreds of submissions from ensembles across 10 states.

Dr. Kenny Lee, Assistant Professor of Cello and Director of Orchestral Studies, conducted the Illinois All-State Orchestra at the Illinois Music Education Conference in January. The ensemble comprises talented students selected by audition from throughout the state.

Dr. Natalie Landowski, Assistant Professor of Piano, presented a lecture recital at the College Music Society's Southwest Chapter Conference at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA.

Graduate violinist Martin Medrano was awarded a Fellowship Assistant Award for the Mostly Modern Festival in Saratoga Springs, NY, for the summer of 2024.

Graduate pianist Denzel Abarquez received 2nd Prize in the professional category of the Birmingham International Music Competition.

George Pârveu, a freshman majoring in violin performance and first violinist in the President's International String Quartet, won the first prize at the Nouvelles Etoiles International Competition in Paris, France.

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Megan Gilfilan (2024 SPRING grad) was awarded the ISHA scholarship for 2023-2024. She is the first WIU student to win this scholarship. She competed against hundreds of applicants (most they have ever received) applications.

We had a student score 198/200 on the PRAXIS exam (almost a perfect) and continue with 100% pass rate with the current class with 88% reported.



Dr. Silberer was nominated for the OVC Outstanding Faculty member.

We have had extremely successful recruitment events for undergrads and grads. We are hopeful for the biggest undergrad and grad classes we have had in years.

We currently have a graduate class for FALL 2024 that is 18 and we are hoping to take as many as 22.

We accepted every senior (12) to our graduate program and all but one are returning for their graduate work (one has not decided yet). This is the first time ever that we have accepted every senior.

The Autism Project of Illinois (TAP) is meeting with us in July about providing us funding because of the work we are doing and the number of local area families we are serving.

The Department of Theatre and Dance

Fall 2023 – **BFA Musical Theatre Program Cumulative GPA - 3.7**

Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival

T&D sent 20 students/faculty to Region 3 Theatre Festival and brought home the awards:

Musical Theatre Intensive Alternate - Michael McNamara

Irene Ryan Selectors Award for Comedy - Nora Wragg

KC/ACTF Region 3 Student Council National Conference Nominee - Kena McCance

Professional Summer Stock Theatre Company Auditions/Interviews on campus:

The Blackhills Playhouse

McLeod Summer Theatre

Grand Street Summer Theatre

Ozark Actors Theatre

Storybook Touring Theatre

Shawnee Summer Theatre (Design/Tech Interviews Only)



Spring Productions (as of March 01)

UCAB - Underground Cabaret in memory of Professor Emeritus Maughan McMurdie

THE GARBOLOGISTS - Directed by the Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian Scholar:
Tamera N. Izlar

RIDE THE CYCLONE - Directed by Lysa Fox, Choreography by Donald Laney, Music Direction by Nicholas Miguel.

Recruitment

A DAY IN THE LIFE March 1 - 21 prospective students on campus experiencing life as a Musical Theatre/Theatre major.

Guests Artists:

- Professor Emeritus and Unrehearsed Shakespearean Scholar - Bill Kincaid workshop: "Shakespeare Then and Now."
- Illinois Theatre Association College/University Division Workshop on WIU Campus: "Puppetry Basics" taught by WIU Professors Rebel Mickelson and Steven House.
- The St. Louis Black Repertory Company - Director of Education and Community Engagement, Brian McKinley (BFA 2016) will teach Musical Theatre workshops, meet with Shades of Vision (T&D BIPOC Student Organization), and hold an industry Q&A.
- SAFD Certified Stage Combatant/SAFD Class Adjudicator: Michelle Ladd will be on campus adjudicating our Stage Combat classes as well as teaching "Motion Capture Combat" in April.

Tri States Public Radio

Heather Norman, General Manager of TSPR, was invited to participate in a workshop by Illinois Humanities, American Farmland Trust, and the American Watershed Initiative to discuss creative ways to communicate the use of Nature Based Solutions to mitigate the effects of extreme precipitation events to the agriculture community.

TSPR and the Department of Broadcasting and Journalism will be hosting a podcasting workshop in cooperation with Western Illinois Museum on April 20th 1-4pm. The workshop is targeted to Junior and Senior High school students and designed to give students an overview of the skills necessary to create podcasts. Students from BCJ will help facilitate the workshop.

TSPR partnered with McDonough County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency to produce on air announcements to air during March as part of Severe Weather Awareness week. MCESDA Interns created the content and recorded the messages to be used to increase the awareness on the importance of Severe Weather preparedness.



Mark Garrett, TSPR's chief engineer, has made sure both TSPR and WIU's The Dog meet new requirements for Emergency Alerting from the FCC managing the updating of software on the alerting equipment.



TSPR is celebrating Women's History month with a modular program "Composing Women." The two-minute programs will feature a different women composer each week day. The

information used for each episode was researched and compiled by School of Music students and faculty: Dr. Anita Hardeman, Dr. Brian Locke, Joseph Crisler, Madalyn Pridemore, and Ethan Schuller. Dr. Richard Cangro developed engagement activities for regional teachers to use that align with the National Core Art Standards. The mini programs air each day on TSPR during Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Ovation. Ovation will also include a featured work by each composer. The work and curriculum suggestions are available on TSPR's website.



BCA (Bureau of Cultural Affairs)

The BCA brought comedian Preacher Lawson to the COFAC Recital Hall on 15 February to over 400 in attendance. The audience consisted of 60% of WIU students and 40% of community members. This was our first big act since COVID and was a great success.

University Art Gallery

Currently showing:

Fred Jones (printmaker and Art faculty emeritus)
Saving the Planet



Kyla Culbertson
ANNEX GALLERY
March 19 – April 12, 2024



Upcoming Shows

Juried Student Exhibition

Juror: Samantha Haring

April 9 – May 3, 2024

Mavigliano/Brabec Senior Art Prize and BFA Exhibitions

April 8 – May 10, 2024

University Libraries

With the support of the Counseling Center, a group of emotional support dogs visits the Malpass Library every month for students and personnel.

In February, the head of the Latin American, Caribbean, and European Division of the Library of Congress, the Dean of Libraries of the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras, and the Latin American Librarian from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign visited WIU Libraries and evaluated the development of the Area Studies Research Center and Collections as part of the VI Grant from the US Department of Education.

Centennial Honors College

Enrollment Management and Recruitment

In addition to the number of new students from this past fall semester, 8 new students enrolled in the Honors College this spring 2024 semester, for a total of over 120 new students for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Honors College and the Office of Admissions hosted the inaugural Honors Day on March 1, 2024, for prospective honors students.

The number of honors students anticipated to graduate at the end of the spring 2024 semester is approximately 80.

Updates and Continuing Activities

Two honors students attended the Honors Council of the Illinois Region (HCIR) Annual Student Symposium on February 23 – 24, 2024 with Dr. Oden at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Jamariah White participated in a panel presentation. The title of the presentation was “*Human Evolution: The Continuous Desire of Knowledge.*” Madelyn Swigart conducted a poster presentation on “*The Personality Problems Linked with Parent Child Relationships.*”

The Ad hoc team has been reviewing the honors curriculum.

Events

The Honors College is excited to announce the return of in-person Academic Honors Convocation on the Macomb campus on May 10, 2024 at 2:00 pm in Western Hall.

The Honors College will host the annual Dr. Jill M. Brody McDonough Eye Associates Pre-Med Symposium on March 6, 2024 in the Brattain Lounge in the University Union. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Mary Kathleen Lockard, who is a Pediatrician with the Medical Group of Macomb.

Planning is currently underway for the annual Undergraduate Research Day, which will be held on April 17, 2024 in the University Union.

Student Honors Association (SHA) Activities

The SHA hosted Impact Life Blood Drive, which yielded 13 blood donors, 7 of whom were first-time donors.

The SHA also hosted a Mental Health Awareness program on February 22, 2024. Dr. Tracy Cruise was the presenter for the event.

Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs

- Theresa Ebeler, Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, received a grant in the amount of \$70,000 from Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide business consulting services for the APEX Accelerator / Procurement Technical Assistance Center on the WIU campus.
- Chris Merrett delivered a presentation on rural childhood poverty at the National Endowment for the Arts / Illinois Humanities Council Big Read. Lasalle Public Library, Lasalle, IL. January 23. Online: <https://www.rcreader.com/news-releases/illinois-humanities%E2%80%99-nea-big-read-program-offers-free-community-book-groups-and-public>.
- Chris Merrett delivered a presentation with WIU Professor Honey Zimmerman and others on the topic of Corn Belt Ports as Regional Business Clusters. The presentation took place at Culver-Stockton College, Canton, MO, January 18, 2024.
- Gisele Hamm and the IIRA MAPPING Program is working with Litchfield, Illinois, to help them create a strategic community and economic development plan. Online: <https://wsmiradio.com/local-news/727591>.
- The IIRA Small Business Development Center hosted a Macomb "Business after Hours" event on February 21, 2024.
- The IIRA Small Business Development Center is collaborating with the City of Macomb to host a "business pitch" competition to spur new business startups for our region. The final "pitch" will take place on March 21. Online: <https://www.mcdonoughvoice.com/story/news/2024/01/30/small-business-competition-looks-to-drive-economic-growth-in-macomb/72355338007/>.
- The IIRA is collaborating with the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council and DCEO to host a workshop focused on the Illinois Grocery Initiative (IGI). This event took place on February 26, 2024. The purpose of the event was to help communities and independently owned grocery stores apply for funds to help upgrade aging equipment. This

is part of the larger \$20,000,000 DCEO-funded Illinois Grocery Initiative (IGI). The goal of the IGI is to help keep grocery stores open in low-income rural and urban neighborhoods. It also aims to start up new grocery store cooperatives in rural and urban food deserts by providing grants and loans to eligible businesses and communities.

- IIRA hosted its 35th Annual Rural Development Conference in partnership with the Governor's Rural Affairs Council (GRAC), chaired by Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton, and Rural Partners. The 2024 Conference took place February 27-29 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL. It attracted 310 attendees.
- IIRA is hosting its annual Rural Transit Conference in Springfield, IL, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation. Over 140 people representing rural transit agencies from across Illinois will attend this event that took place March 5-7, 2024.

Center for Global Studies

In December Graduation, 188 international students from 11 countries graduated. Almost 250 international students, the largest class in history, are scheduled to graduate in May from 18 countries; further 20 – 30 students should complete their degrees in August. It adds up to approximately 430-460 international students leaving the way we want it to happen---via graduation. Retention remains at a high level. In January we enrolled 90 new students; in August, I anticipate 200-225 new students. Our overall numbers, now at 820, should be at or about 750 in fall---still 12% of anticipated overall enrollment.

We can recover smartly with significantly lower cost of operations for the 24/25 school year. Revenues have increased with the requirement of mandatory first semester payment for newly arrived students; and almost \$400K was saved on agent commissions relative to last year. Recruitment is in high drive.

Our attrition is minimal; our undergraduate students are setting the academic standard on campus; and our student services and international organizations are thriving. We are accomplishing all of this with only the AVP and one administrator, resulting in a low-cost operation.

Outreach is in the process of setting up several camps for students in the community. We are also exploring the possibility of collaborations with outside groups wanting specialized services on campus.

Study abroad is successfully executing the various faculty lead and partner driven programs; we are always exploring other possibilities and sites.

Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board

Founded in 1992, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) Executive Institute provides knowledge and technical assistance to criminal justice practitioners throughout the State of Illinois, and is dedicated to developing leaders in the law enforcement community. Having been located on the campus of Western Illinois University since its inception, the organization helps add institutional distinctiveness to the University as we are one of the few Peace Officer Standards and Training executive institutions in the country. As stewards of state resources, the Executive Institute continues to invest in strategic programs that deliver value and

provide participants with academically-based knowledge and best practices. Core curriculum, workshops, seminars and executive summits are designed with fiscal responsibility not only for the Executive Institute, but also for those we serve.

This quarter's contributions to the University community:

- The Executive Institute, one of the leading non-academic departments on campus, is currently managing fifty active grants this fiscal year.
 - Just recently, the Office of the Attorney General of Illinois was awarded a grant for a 48-month project to provide specialized training to law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys in the 102 counties in Illinois. The ILETSB Executive Institute will be a partner on the grant, and will be producing a three to four-hour training on identifying, reporting, and responding to hate crimes and bias incidents for law enforcement.
- At every conference and training, the ILETSB Executive Institute either promotes WIU by means of promotional materials/flyers, verbal acknowledgement of WIU alumni in attendance, and collaborative efforts with LEJA, Psychology Department, Social Work Department, Management and Marketing Department, Philosophy Department, etc. Our name/branding is strongly associated with Western Illinois University, which further promotes recruitment/retention initiatives for the University.
- The Executive Institute promotes experiential learning through applied studies in external settings. These applied settings include internships, graduate assistant positions, and practicum students. We partnered with the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration to support the internship of an undergraduate student in the spring semester. Graduate assistant positions are also filled within the Executive Institute: one (1) LEJA, (1) Psychology department, and (1) Applied Statistics and Decision Analytics. The Executive Institute provides opportunities for student development and learning outside the classroom through involvement, leadership, and co-curricular experiences in environments that are supportive, challenging, and inclusive. We continue to support articles authored by interns and practicum students in our weekly newsletter. Additionally, the Executive Institute provides professional development to all practicum and intern students through attendance and participation at conferences and meetings.
- The Executive Institute has been mentoring the WIU campus organization “Minorities in Blue,” an organization that serves a wide variety of students who wish to pursue a career in the law enforcement field. Additionally, MIB seeks to encourage women and minorities to join the field. This purpose is accomplished through the organization seeking to motivate, enhance, and empower a diverse population of students to become leaders in the Law Enforcement and Justice Administration field by inspiring them to not only become entry-level professionals but also to lead organizations as executives and administrators.
 - Arranged for two presenters for the organization, one being from the FBI Springfield Office and the second one being from the Criminal Enforcement Division of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General – Chicago.
 - According to Bureau Chief of the Law Enforcement Training Division of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General's Office: “What a GREAT group of students! I never know what to expect with college kids and these people were a treat! They were engaging and thoughtful. They asked great

questions and had very positive energy. I really enjoyed my time with them and would love to help support this group any way I can! I am so happy to see such a varied group of people actively seeking out careers in community service.”

- Since the meeting in late February 2024, several MIB students have reached out inquiring about internships and other opportunities with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, to which Director Heather Hotz has made connections to the appropriate personnel to assist the WIU students.



- Supported the fall fundraiser for the organization.
- Sponsoring three members to attend the Women in Criminal Justice Conference in April, free of charge. We will also be highlighting the group on the day one luncheon, where the President of the organization will discuss the MIB group at WIU. Also, Director Hotz is providing the group with a table to share information/make connections and highlight their spring fundraiser.
- The Executive Institute manages the Emergency Operations Center grant on behalf of the University. Staff continues to attend EOC project meetings with LEJA, McDonough County ESDA, Facilities Management, and Sponsored Projects.
- Continue to support research projects with Department of Psychology at Western Illinois University, as well as the Professional Research Pool for Criminal Justice Science (www.prpforcjscience.org).
- Director Hotz worked with Dr. Stu Yager, Professor of the Educational Leadership program at Western Illinois University, to help rewrite the instructional design course for the Online Learning Network.
- The Executive Institute offers three primary ILETSB-certified courses targeting various levels of leadership in Illinois’ law enforcement community. With a blended faculty of innovative criminal justice academics and practitioners from throughout the United States, and classes reflecting a broad spectrum of experience, professional disciplines and geographic distribution, these programs provide an exceptional and widely respected educational experience. Staff collaborated with the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration at Western Illinois University to offer undergraduate and graduate academic credit for core curriculum courses. An articulation agreement was reached and registrants may apply for up to six hours of academic credit.

- The ILESTB Executive Institute continues to utilize WIU faculty in our programming, which most recently included: Philosophy, LEJA, Business, etc.
- Barend Wurth, our Program Coordinator in the Education and Training division, is a competitive age group triathlete who has competed in more than twenty full Ironman distance triathlons. In 2023, he qualified for the world championship in his age group. Last year, Barend started training and coaching WIU’s Director of Bands, Dr. Mike Fansler. As the WIU age group Triathlon Team, they competed in the Chicago Triathlon, where Dr. Fansler set a “personal best” and Barend made third place. They will compete in the Ironman 70.3 Des Moines on June 9 and one or more races later in the year.



- Additionally, Barend started as an adjunct professor in the Kinesiology Department this spring semester. He teaches the course PETE235 -Aquatics in the PE Teacher Program. This course teaches students various swimming skills and to experience and understand contemporary aquatic skills and safety issues suitable for instructing PK12 learners to participate in aquatic activities throughout their lifetime.

Office of Sponsored Projects

The Office of Sponsored Projects continues to assist faculty and staff pursue external funding to support their scholarly endeavors as well as to support the mission of the university. The office was an anomaly and had very seasoned staff until recently. Currently, the office is down two FTEs, of six total, and absent the director the most seasoned person has less than two years’ experience. We are in the process of filling one of the open positions as we cannot adequately serve the faculty and staff and maintain compliance with the myriad of federal and state regulations at our current levels. Despite being short staffed the office has had several accomplishments outside of our normal activities:

Kari Woodrum, Pre-Award Specialist, wrote an article “Call Me Coach! Pre-Award Research Administration at a Small Predominately Undergraduate Institution” which was published in the December 2023 edition of the NCURA (National Council of University Research Administrators) Magazine.

Kari Woodrum co-authored “Proposal Resubmission – The First Step to Success is Overcoming Rejection” for the NCURA Sponsored Research Administrators Guide, a subscription-based resource. The article was based on a previous presentation at an NCURA conference. The other authors were Dr. Kris Monahan, Senior Director of Sponsored Projects and Research Compliance at Providence College, and Roger Wareham, Director of Grants and Research at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Trent Gentry joined WIU in October as our Compliance Specialist. He is responsible for all human and animal subject research as well as export control, intellectual property, biosafety and responsible conduct of research. In December Trent attended a Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) conference and one day IRB workshop. He has hit the ground running and is a great addition to the OSP staff.

Shannon Sutton was lead faculty for the four half-day virtual Level 1: Fundamentals of Sponsored Projects Administration for NCURA in November 2023. There were 82 participants and three presenters.

Shannon completed her two-year role as Vice Chair/Chair for the NCURA Nominating & Leadership Development Committee in December 2023. The position is elected by the Board of Directors and the committee is responsible for leadership, elections, awards, and the new Emerging Leaders program for the association.

Shannon wrote and submitted a Support for Research Excellence (SuRE) grant for \$50,000 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which, if funded, would support training and educational opportunities for the WIU OSP staff.

Shannon was a panelist at the National Science Foundation Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (NSF GRANTED) conference held February 7-8, 2024 in Fort Worth, Texas. The GRANTED conference was to focus on addressing systemic barriers within the nation's research enterprise by improving research support and service capacity.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/7 -- Report on Contributions



Fundraising Progress Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Pledges Made	Planned Gifts (FV)*	Total Pledges
\$ 993,494	\$ 5,120,362	\$ 6,113,856
Cash Gifts	Gifts-in- Kind	Total Receipts
\$ 3,748,930	\$ 131,018	\$ 3,879,948

	Overall Total	Goal	% to Goal
Fiscal Year	\$ 9,993,804	\$ 8,000,000	124.9%
Campaign	\$ 56,817,047	\$ 100,000,000	56.8%

*Discounted Present Value for the 4 planned gift pledge(s):
\$ 1,983,485

Deferred gifts not included in totals:
\$ 11,350

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year goals and progress
AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members
NOTES: Cash Gifts do not include pledge payments.
Gifts-in-kind do not include service or noncharitable gifts-in-kind.
Printed on 2024-03-07

Fundraising Progress Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

COLLEGE/UNIT	PLEDGES	GIFTS	GIFTS- IN-KIND	PLANNED GIFTS	FISCAL YEAR TOTAL	PREVIOUS FY TOTAL
CAS	15,504	532,497	8,058	0	556,059	2,359,793
CBT	35,409	521,330	0	5,000,000	5,556,739	1,001,932
COEHS	33,927	446,060	1,000	0	480,987	424,095
COFAC	69,107	396,205	9,000	60,362	534,674	341,528
ATHLETICS	25,088	363,693	33,588	0	422,369	598,659
STUDENT SUCCESS	15,513	82,318	65,600	0	163,431	140,193
LIBRARY	134	24,530	528	0	25,192	116,168
HONORS	372	21,150	0	0	21,522	13,608
GLOBAL STUDIES	3,910	3,775	0	0	7,685	10,630
QC	4,345	63,032	0	0	67,377	166,903
ALUMNI	4,034	22,513	179	0	26,726	59,072
BGS	1,700	5,110	0	0	6,810	7,626
PFA	0	25	0	0	25	0
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	609,023	241,060	0	60,000	910,083	280,274
TRI-STATES RADIO	138,461	106,460	0	0	244,921	298,785
WQPT	5,794	446,412	12,310	0	464,515	610,038
OTHER	31,172	472,760	755	0	504,687	16,459,113
UNIVERSITY TOTALS:	993,494	3,748,930	131,018	5,120,362	9,993,804	22,888,417

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year progress by unit

AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members

NOTES: Gifts do not include pledge payments.

Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.

Gifts-in-kind do not include service or noncharitable gifts-in-kind.

Printed on 2024-03-07

Annual Fund Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

COLLEGE/UNIT	# OF PLEDGES	TOTAL PLEDGE AMT	AVERAGE PLEDGE AMT	PLEDGES PAID	CASH	*TOTAL RECEIVED
CAS	71	7,180	101	4,564	60,851	65,415
CBT	149	18,785	126	9,405	51,616	61,021
COEHS	36	3,970	110	2,655	24,826	27,481
COFAC	43	13,976	325	10,909	50,638	61,547
ALUMNI	34	3,685	108	2,885	11,134	14,019
GLOBAL STUDIES	37	2,590	70	345	1,775	2,120
LIBRARY	2	134	67	73	18,480	18,553
HONORS	0	0	0	0	200	200
QC	2	2,120	1,060	1,090	536	1,626
ATHLETICS	60	20,947	349	12,902	186,570	199,472
STUDENT SERVICES	34	4,384	129	2,738	14,652	17,390
BGS	29	1,700	59	1,030	2,460	3,490
TRI-STATES RADIO	465	138,461	298	91,056	105,860	196,916
WQPT	43	5,794	135	2,026	436,412	438,437
PFA	0	0	0	0	25	25
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	98	17,468	178	14,123	44,844	58,967
OTHER	22	18,374	835	17,509	44,635	62,144
Total	1,125	259,569	231	173,310	1,055,514	1,228,823

****Total Annual Fund: \$1,315,082**

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year Annual Fund totals by Unit; includes Phonathon and President's Scholarship totals.
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members.
 NOTES:
 *Total Received equals Income (Pledges Paid + Cash).
 **Total Annual Fund equals sum of Pledges and Cash.
 Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.
 Printed on 2024-03-07

Phonathon Report July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

COLLEGE/UNIT	# OF PLEDGES	TOTAL PLEDGE AMT	AVERAGE PLEDGE AMT	PLEDGES PAID	CASH	*TOTAL RECEIVED
CAS	67	5,660	84	3,530	125	3,655
CBT	144	11,865	82	4,610	155	4,765
COEHS	34	2,830	83	1,850	35	1,885
COFAC	20	1,400	70	955	0	955
ALUMNI	33	3,635	110	2,835	1,175	4,010
GLOBAL STUDIES	37	2,590	70	345	0	345
LIBRARY	1	25	25	0	30	30
HONORS	0	0	0	0	0	0
QC	0	0	0	0	0	0
ATHLETICS	13	1,625	125	50	100	150
STUDENT SERVICES	24	1,455	61	645	25	670
BGS	29	1,700	59	1,030	85	1,115
TRI-STATES RADIO	1	50	50	50	0	50
WQPT	0	0	0	0	0	0
PFA	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIV SCHOLARSHIPS	96	15,010	156	11,790	6,230	18,020
OTHER	17	1,865	110	1,300	0	1,300
Total	516	49,710	96	28,990	7,960	36,950

****Total Phonathon: \$57,670**

PURPOSE: Record of fiscal year Phonathon totals by Unit.
 AUDIENCE: Internal use for administrators, development officers, and board members.
 NOTES:
 *Total Received equals Income (Pledges Paid + Cash).
 **Total Phonathon equals sum of Pledges and Cash.
 Radio is separate from COFAC; Parent and Family Association is separate from Student Services.
 Printed on 2024-03-07

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/8 -- Enrollment Summary

Spring 2024 Enrollment Summary

- Western Illinois University's total enrollment decreased by 6.76 percent (-471) from 6966 in spring 2023 to 6495 in spring 2024.
- Macomb campus enrollment decreased by 6.97 percent (-423) from 6125 in spring 2023 to 5702 in spring 2024.
- Quad Cities campus enrollment decreased by 5.71 percent (-48) from 841 in spring 2023 to 793 in spring 2024.
- Online campus enrollment decreased by 8.91 percent (-252) from 2810 in spring 2023 to 2558 in spring 2024.
- A total of 460 new students began at Western Illinois University in spring 2024.
- Fall to spring retention of new first-time full-time freshmen students was 83.1%.
- Fall to spring retention of new first-time full-time transfer students increased to 88.9%.
- Fall to spring retention of all undergraduates increased to 87.4%.

Spring 2024 Enrollment Details

Western Illinois University's total enrollment decreased by 6.76 percent (-471) from 6966 in spring 2023 to 6495 in spring 2024. Overall, undergraduate enrollment decreased by 2.9 percent (-137), while graduate enrollment decreased by 14.88% (-334). Off-campus/online graduate enrollment on both campuses saw the most significant percent decrease compared to spring 2023. Macomb campus enrollment decreased by 6.97 percent (-423) students. With an overall decline of 5.71% (-48), the Quad Cities campus undergraduate enrollment increased by 6.77% (+38).

This spring, 460 new students became Leathernecks with 41 new entering freshman, 210 new entering transfer students, and 209 new entering graduate students. Overall, total new entering students decreased by 17.86 percent. New entering freshmen decreased by 21.15% (-11) new entering transfer students decreased by 7.89 percent (-18) and new entering graduate students decreased by 25.36 percent (-71).

Spring 2024 Spring 2023 % change

Overall Enrollment	6495	6966	-6.76%
<i>Macomb Campus Overall Enrollment</i>	<i>5702</i>	<i>6125</i>	<i>-6.91%</i>
On-Campus Undergraduate	2759	2896	-4.73%
On-Campus Graduate	878	953	-7.87%
Off-Campus Undergraduate	1227	1265	-3.00%
Off-Campus Graduate	838	1011	-17.11%
<i>QC Campus Overall Enrollment</i>	<i>793</i>	<i>841</i>	<i>-5.71%</i>
On-Campus Undergraduate	208	207	0.48%
On-Campus Graduate	92	100	-8.00%
Off-Campus Undergraduate	391	354	10.45%
Off-Campus Graduate	102	180	-43.33%

<i>Online Enrollment</i>	<i>2558</i>	<i>2810</i>	<i>-8.97%</i>
Undergraduate	1618	1619	-0.06%
Graduate	940	1191	-21.07%

Total New Entering Students	460	560	-17.86%
New Entering Freshman	41	52	-21.15%
New Entering Transfer	210	228	-7.89%
New Entering Graduate	209	280	-25.36%

Western Illinois University
Headcount Enrollment by Gender, Full-Time/Part-Time, Class Level and Location

	SPRING 2024								
	Full-Time			Part-Time			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Headcount
MACOMB									
Freshmen	270	440	710	39	62	101	309	502	811
Sophomores	285	348	633	7	24	31	292	372	664
Juniors	345	506	851	42	69	111	387	575	962
Seniors	515	723	1,238	135	176	311	650	899	1,549
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE	1,415	2,017	3,432	223	331	554	1,638	2,348	3,986
TOTAL GRADUATE	368	371	739	365	612	977	733	983	1,716
MACOMB TOTAL	1,783	2,388	4,171	588	943	1,531	2,371	3,331	5,702
QUAD CITIES									
Freshmen	14	28	42	17	25	42	31	53	84
Sophomores	22	32	54	2	13	15	24	45	69
Juniors	43	58	101	11	31	42	54	89	143
Seniors	70	115	185	49	69	118	119	184	303
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE	149	233	382	79	138	217	228	371	599
TOTAL GRADUATE	12	42	54	42	98	140	54	140	194
QUAD CITIES TOTAL	161	275	436	121	236	357	282	511	793
TOTAL ENROLLMENT									
Freshmen	284	468	752	56	87	143	340	555	895
Sophomores	307	380	687	9	37	46	316	417	733
Juniors	388	564	952	53	100	153	441	664	1,105
Seniors	585	838	1,423	184	245	429	769	1,083	1,852
TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE	1,564	2,250	3,814	302	469	771	1,866	2,719	4,585
TOTAL GRADUATE	380	413	793	407	710	1,117	787	1,123	1,910
GRAND TOTAL	1,944	2,663	4,607	709	1,179	1,888	2,653	3,842	6,495

Source: Enrollment Tables 1-5

Fall 2023-to-Spring 2024 Retention Details

As expected, the impact of the newly implemented 0.0 GPA policy is seen in our fall-to-spring retention rate for first-time full-time freshmen. The implementation of this policy led to 62 students being academically dismissed. Over 90% of the impacted students had one or more interactions with our Student Development and Success Center, Outreach and Student Support Team, Student Rights and Responsibilities, or Office of Public Safety. Of this population, 83.3% were identified as medium or high concern through our fall 2023 Connections Mapping Program.

Full-time and part-time transfer student fall-to-spring retention improved. Our transfer student population uses resources like EdSights, offering the Rocky-Bot, with a 95% opt-in rate and 62% actively engaged with the program.

<i>Fall to Spring Retention</i>	Headcount	Retained	% Retained*
New Full-Time Freshman	951	790	83.1%
New Part-Time Freshman	17	7	41.2%
New Full-Time Transfer	486	432	88.9%
New Part-Time Transfer	116	96	82.8%

*excluding grads

Historical First Time Full Time (FTFT) Student Retention Rate

	Fall to Spring	Fall to Fall
2018	89.7%	67.5%
2019	89.3%	77.0%
2020	89.4%	71.9%
2021	88.4%	66.9%
2022	85.0%	58.7%
2023	83.1%	

*New Transfer Fall-to-Spring Retention**

	Full-Time	Part-Time
2020	88.5%	74.8%
2021	87.4%	81.7%
2022	87.5%	76.6%
2023	88.9%	82.8%

*excluding grads

When reviewing our first-time full-time freshman fall-to-spring retention by race, we continue to see a need to support our underserved student population. Our White first-time full-time freshman retention from fall 2023 to spring 2024 was 92%, down from 93% a year ago. Our Black fall-to-spring freshman retention rate was 70.6%, down from 76.8% a year ago. Our Hispanic fall-to-spring freshman retention rate was 82.7%, down from 83.9% last spring.

When considering all undergraduate students, we see encouraging trends in retention. Our White undergraduate retention from fall 2023 to spring 2024 was 91%, up from 90.1% a year ago. Our Black fall-to-spring undergraduate retention rate was 77.8%, up from 76.2% a year ago. Our Hispanic fall-to-spring undergraduate retention rate was 86.5%, the same as last spring. Overall, fall-to-spring retention of undergraduate students rose to 87.4%, up from 86.2% a year ago.

Fall 2024 Undergraduate Admissions Summary

- Current applications for freshman admissions are up 0.91% (+69), with 7646 as of 3/8/2024 compared to 7577 the same time last year.

- Current applications for transfer admissions are down 10.29% (-88), with 767 as of 3/8/2024 compared to 855 the same time last year.
- Shaping the fall 2024 incoming freshman class has negative overall implications for our acceptance rate compared to the same period last year.
- We have revamped our scholarship offerings to better leverage institutional aid.
- A new focus on returning and post-traditional students is underway.

Freshman

3/8/2024

<i>Applications</i>	Fall 2024	Fall 2023	
Macomb	7213	7150	0.88%
Quad Cities	276	243	13.58%
Online	157	184	-14.67%
Total	7646	7577	0.91%
<i>Accepts</i>			
Macomb	4905	5403	-9.22%
Quad Cities	185	193	-4.15%
Online	87	85	2.35%
Total	5177	5681	-8.87%

Transfer

<i>Applications</i>	Fall 2024	Fall 2023	
Macomb	550	604	-8.94%
Quad Cities	60	67	-10.45%
Online	97	91	6.59%
Total	767	855	-10.29%
<i>Accepts</i>			
Macomb	220	283	-22.26%
Quad Cities	31	34	-8.82%
Online	37	51	-27.45%
Total	348	408	-14.71%

As we look to purposefully shape the incoming freshman class to ensure the best student support possible, we are limiting the number of first-year students who will be served in our Reach program for fall 2024. Students in our alternative admission program deserve and require additional support from campus resources and academic advising. This decision means we are admitting fewer students to be considered for the Reach program, leading to our declining admit numbers. Given limited resources, this purposeful decision will help ensure we admit the correct number of students we can support.

Delays in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) processing are being felt nationwide and will affect our traditional enrollment timeline. To support students in having time to make well-informed decisions on all of their college options, Western Illinois University has extended our priority deadline for applications to be considered for institutional aid to May 15th. We have also adjusted our new student onboarding programming to ensure students have options for orientation sessions later in the summer.

Regarding institutional aid, we have refreshed the former Western Commitment Scholarship to assist overall university expenditures, following guidance and insight from Ruffalo Noel Levitz. Award levels and criteria have been updated. Students entering WIU in fall 2024 with a 4.0 or above will receive up to \$7,000 annually, 3.5-3.99 will receive up to \$5,000, and 3.0-3.49 will receive up to \$3,000. Renewal requirements have been updated, requiring all students to earn at least a 3.0 GPA to maintain their scholarship. We have also married AIM High funding from the State of Illinois to the Western Commitment Scholarship Program, creating the AIM High Western Commitment Scholarship; this adjustment allows us to leverage state funding to recruit and retain students with financial need while reducing overall institutional aid.

Last week, we introduced the Western Way Program. Incoming new students meeting eligibility and renewal requirements are guaranteed to have their tuition costs and mandatory fees covered. For freshmen, the award will cover eight consecutive semesters, and for transfers, it will cover four consecutive semesters.

Enrollment Initiatives and Actions

We continue implementing and retooling new initiatives, approaches, and tactics to improve overall enrollment by focusing on new student recruitment and retention efforts.

Student Recruitment

- Undergraduate Admissions continues one prong of a recruitment strategy by focusing on local students in the Macomb campus area. In progress is a series of emails, postcards, and press releases featuring local students, culminating with yard signs to allow students to display pride in being a Leatherneck. This campaign is for fall 2024 admitted students.
- Western Illinois University will launch a new focused effort on students who have withdrawn and not completed their degree.
 - In collaboration with our Advancement Team and through support from a generous donor, WIU will launch the Finish Line Program to offer financial assistance to former students with 90 or more credit hours who have not achieved their bachelor's degree to return and complete their degrees. Our initial list has over 1,000 former students we plan to target.
 - WIU will partner with Motimatic to target over 2,500 students who have stopped attending in hopes of strongly encouraging them to return to WIU.
 - The Office of the Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions, Billing and Receivables, New Student and Family Programs, Financial Aid, University Marketing, and the team in the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) program have teamed up to focus on reducing barriers, streamlining the process of returning to WIU, and building up support for students once they return.
- To support students during the federal FAFSA delay, Admissions Counselors Kate Romanaggi and Taylor Fieterer created a video tutorial for students/parents/caregivers to walk them through using the Net Price Calculator. The Calculator allows students to get an estimate of their financial aid award at Western. The video is being used as part of a campaign to inform students about the availability of the Net Price Calculator and provide cost information to students.
- The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will offer focused training sessions to develop volunteer faculty and staff interested in assisting undergraduate recruitment efforts. This focus will ensure that Western Illinois University can attend various recruitment events and activities when the Undergraduate Admissions team is already booked for other events, initiatives, and activities.
- The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is leading the development of transfer plans and agreements with partner community colleges and other WIU campus partners. Among

the agreements are Elementary & Early Childhood Education with Black Hawk College, Agriculture options and Elementary Education & Early Childhood at Sauk Valley Community College, Music Business at Elgin Community College, Math, Chemistry, Physics & Biology Secondary Education at Eastern Iowa Community College and Agricultural Business at Southwestern Illinois College. Over 100 individual transfer guides have been created this academic year upon student requests specific to their community college and major. These initiatives continue to be led by Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Transfer Services Kassie Daly.

- In collaboration with Spoon River College, Western Illinois University has entered the Aspen Transfer Intensive Experience, a yearlong guided focus on enhancing the transfer student experience between institutions. At the end of the year, both institutions will have a completed Strategic Transfer Excellence Plan (STEP), which can be applied to other institutional partnerships in the future. WIU's team is composed of faculty and staff throughout the institution, focused on improving the transfer student experience.
- To continue supporting a broad application pool, Undergraduate Admissions is participating in the Common App direct admission initiative to inform students meeting our admissions criteria that they will be admitted if they apply. Doug Freed, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, and Ries Wynn-Foster, Associate Director of Admissions, lead this initiative.

Student Success and Retention Efforts

- With financial support from the Chicago College Compact, our Outreach and Retention Office has implemented an incentive program to encourage positive academic behavior among our current first-year students who are alums of Chicago public schools. This focus allows students to earn micro-financial support throughout the semester for completing tasks like meeting with their instructors, adding tutoring, etc. Jackie Price, Director of Student Outreach and Support, leads this initiative.
- The Division of Student Success, along with representatives from Academic Affairs, has created a small team to work with McAlister and Quinn on developing a TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Grant. The team is collecting data and completing the initial project assessment with McAlister and Quinn to assess WIU's readiness and ability to compete in the grant process. Our Interim Director of Institutional Research and Planning, Dr. Christopher Pynes, and the team have been vital in securing the needed data points and advancing our application.
- To continue to support student connection, involvement, and activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life within the Office of Student Engagement is working with student leadership from our Black Greek Letter Organizations on the redevelopment and implementation of a National Pan-Hellenic Council here at Western Illinois University. Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Taylor Duncan, and Associate Director of the Multicultural Center, LeRon Williams, collaborate to advance this initiative.

- With support from the WIU Foundation, Western Illinois University will again offer a summer bridge experience for students in the Reach program. We assessed the previous summer and adjusted the program offerings, schedule, and timeline. Jackie Price, Director of Student Outreach and Support, leads this initiative.
- In collaboration with Academic Affairs, the Division of Student Success has been actively focusing on WIU's recent receipt of a Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development (RPED) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This \$2.2 million award addresses equity gaps among rural students.

Our Outreach and Retention Office will continue to focus efforts through the Chicago College Compact grant this summer, implementing retreat experiences for students from Chicago Public Schools to experience Macomb and our campus before school starts in the fall.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/9 -- Quad Cities Campus Priorities, Strategies, and Highlights

Western Illinois University - Quad Cities Campus Highlights
Kristi Mindrup, Vice President of Quad Cities Campus Operations
Audrey Adamson, Executive Director of the Career Center and Quad Cities Outreach
March 2024

Guided by the Western Illinois University – Quad Cities (WIU-QC) Strategic Initiatives Plan, the following report illustrates activities that position the university to foster a high level of student engagement, that strategically position WIU as the Quad Cities regional comprehensive University and educational leader in the region and beyond, and that emphasize educational opportunity and engagement for students and for the broader Quad Cities region.

This report also provides an in-depth look at the efforts of WIU Center for Career Preparation and Employer Engagement. Led by Executive Director Audrey Adamson, and with dedicated career center staff, the center provides career focused opportunities for students that contribute to student retention efforts. Events, programs, and one on one appointments provide additional focus for students academically, while aligning with community, regional, and statewide efforts to enhance career preparation and pathways that extend from K-12, through the University experience, and on to life and employment after college.

Early Learning Center – Renovation and Operational Preparation

Planning efforts on the Bilingual Early Learning Center are coming to fruition this spring. Renovation of the leased Boys and Girls Club space adjacent to downtown Moline is underway. Modifications to the space will ensure a welcoming, operational learning environment that follows good practices in childcare and is also compliant with Department of Child and Family Services regulations.

Dr. Lindsay Meeker’s leadership, along with partnership with the School of Education, has guided this project from start to its near completion, and generated an outpouring of community interest and financial support. This project is an example of cross-university collaboration, including the time and talents of Ted Renner, Jeff Calhoun, Curtis Williams, Don Swearinger and many more. With external funding and a self-sustaining operational model, this high-impact activity will make a positive impact on the early learning needs of the community, will provide hands on learning opportunities for students, and will establish WIU as the leader in early learning education in our region, the state, and beyond. We look forward to celebrating a grand opening very soon.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 4.

Chemistry Lab – Welcome New Faculty, New Students, New Opportunities

Funded through a grant obtained through the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, the Quad Cities Campus chemistry lab was renovated and is now fully operational. The chemistry department welcomed chemistry professor Dr. Garima Mishra to campus, who quickly set up equipment, materials, and protocols all while preparing for the first-ever offering of CHEM 201 on the Quad Cities campus. This course is a required for Engineering students who previously left WIU to access the course at other institutions. The inaugural offering yielded 12 spring semester students. With earlier course promotion and predictable schedule rotation, the course promises to yield additional student enrollments for semesters to come.

Facilities Ted Renner, Don Swearinger and Penny Wickert were instrumental in planning, designing, working with contractors and assisting with classroom set up.
WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1, Action 6., Strategic Initiative #3.

Quad Cities-based recruitment and engagement initiatives – Connecting Students to Macomb, QC, and Online

The Quad Cities based Admissions team creates numerous opportunities for area students to experience and learn about all that WIU has to offer on the Quad Cities campus. The team connects students to opportunities and information about programs offered in each of Western's locations and online. Career Center staff engage each group with a hands-on career pathways activity to connect the students' interests to WIU programs. During the past months, Cameron Ruiz and the admissions team hosted 12 high school group visits, including cohorts from Illinois located schools Rock Island, Geneseo, Alwood, Cambridge, United Township (East Moline), and the East Moline Education Center. Outreach also invited students from across the river, with Iowa students on campus from North Scott, Pleasant Valley, Bettendorf, Davenport Central and Central-Dewitt High Schools.

Four visits integrated hands on Engineering Open Houses where students engaged with WIU engineering faculty, peers who are members of the Academic Club for Engineering, and Quad Cities Student Services Director, Curtis Williams. Eight more group visits are scheduled for spring, and these events are on pace to exceed 2023 participation numbers (385) by an estimated 100 students.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.a., Strategic Initiative #3. Action 1.

Quad Cities Student Services led ongoing efforts to build connections between student academic and social experiences, including:

- Academic Club for Engineering and Women in Engineering student organizations collaborated with Quad Cities Student Services to host a Coding workshop and Egg Drop Competition during Engineering Week. On Wednesday, February 21st, over seventy middle school students participated in activities, campus tours, and coding workshops. On Friday, February 23rd, 15 high school students competed in the Egg Drop competition.
- Overwatch and Fortnite esports teams have had very good starts to the season. Overwatch team is 2-1, while the Fortnite is ranked 14th out of 61 teams from around the country.

- Support for Reach students has increased points of contact and provided additional services to help with academic success.
- Expanded food services on campus to provide students, faculty, and staff food options Monday - Thursday each week.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 7.

Counselor Education Outreach and Impact

In addition to the academic accomplishments of the excellent faculty in the Counselor Education program, the faculty also led impactful initiatives and partnerships to benefit students, schools, and the community. Dr. Haley Wikoff is a leader in affirming mental health counseling practices for LGBTQ+ clients, and has integrated this work into graduate student experiences and clinical placements. Western Illinois University Counseling is contributing to innovative services that empower individuals and ensure inclusive practices.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.a., Action 2.a.

Counseling Faculty also engage in partnerships with the community, schools, and other agencies to build connections to the program, create opportunities for WIU students, and to promote mental health and wellness in the community. The following activities are examples of those efforts:

- Illinois School Counselor Association – 12-hour Clinical Supervision training (Dr. Matthew Beck, Dr. Haley Wickoff)
- Newark, NJ Board of Education training and professional development (Dr. Wikoff)
- Partnership with local mental health agencies to submit grants. (Dr. Leslie O’Ryan)
- Virtual Open House and Interview Day (Student recruitment)
- Professional organization involvement
 - Ethics Committee for the American School Counselor Association (Dr. Wikoff)
 - Presentation with graduate student Nikisha Smith on Supporting Success and Belonging of International Graduate Students at the American College Personnel Association and Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Conference. (Dr. Julie Brines)
- Quad City Wild Ones 2nd Annual Symposium for “Plants, Paths, and Pizza” in support of research on ecocounseling, which is a path toward healing and equity in a healthy environment. (Dr. O’Ryan, with involvement from facilities and grounds person Penny Wickert).

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.a., Action 2.a., STRATEGIC INITIATIVE#2. Action 2.b.

Museum Studies – Mentorship and Leadership

Dr. Heidi Lung submitted (March 1 deadline) Mentorship and Leadership at All Levels (MLAL), a multifaceted and collaborative program to increase museum career awareness and overcome financial barriers graduate students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds face. Project activities will include 1) the creation of a Career Pathway Seminar and recruitment resources to familiarize students with museum career pathways; 2) opportunities to work side-by-side with museum professionals in the Quad City region through paid internships and assistantships; and 3) the development of a self-paced online learning website and mentorship group focused on

increasing museum leadership competencies and building professional networks. WIU Museum Studies will work with the Iowa Museum Association to develop the MLAL online training. It will be made freely accessible to graduate students and museum professionals from small/mid-sized rural museums across the region.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1 Action 1. a, WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #2 Action 1.b.

The MST 502 Museum Exhibitions course collaborates with Initiatives in the Accessibility Committee on the Sensory Project, featuring an inclusive website with a virtual sensorium. The virtual sensorium, skillfully developed by WIU-Quad Cities Museum Studies Faculty Angela McClanahan-Simmons, is designed to cater to online students, ensuring they can equally benefit from the initiatives. This innovative approach underscores the commitment to accessibility and inclusivity, extending the reach of our initiatives to all members of our diverse community. WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.c

WIU Museum Studies hosted three program information sessions on Zoom in February. Over 20 students learned about the WIU Museum Studies program and got to talk with students currently in the program.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #3. Action 1

WIU Museum Studies graduate students engage in graduate assistantships and internships at Quad City partner museums and organizations:

- Bix Beiderbecke Museum, Davenport Iowa
- Butterworth Center and Deere Wiman House, Moline, IL
- Family Museum, Bettendorf, IA
- Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA
- German American Heritage Center and Museum, Davenport, IA
- Putnam Museum and Science Center, Davenport, IA

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 5.a and 5.f

WIU Museum Studies is the key sponsor of the Iowa Museum Association 2024 Career Conversations Event, held on Zoom on April 11, 2024. During the Iowa Museum Association Career Conversation program, five panelists will share their educational paths, discuss the road to their current positions, explore the highs and lows of working in cultural institutions, and answer student questions. This event aims to highlight the diversity of paths in the museum field and some professionals' choices for their education and careers.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.e

WIU Museum Studies and the Graduate Experience in Museum Studies (GEMS) student group will host an on-campus live stream event with pizza and snacks and opportunities to socialize with students from St. Ambrose University's art history department.

Environmental Science – Impactful Wetland and Land Use Research

Doctoral level research guided by the expertise of Dr. Roger Viadero contributes to regional understanding of our river and watershed environments and ecosystems. Community partnerships connect student research to the needs of the local Mississippi watershed community.

Vickie Livingston successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation on “Trace Metal Partitioning in Environmental Compartments in Nahant Marsh, Davenport, IA.” Her work provides valuable insights into our understanding of the long-term durability of Superfund remediation as well as the influence of surrounding industrial land use.

Madison Davee successfully defended her MS thesis on modeling real-time water levels in a small wetland system. Her work provides a first approach to understanding and predicting the ways small, urban wetlands respond to rain storms of different intensities. The Quad Cities Conservation Alliance provided support for the sensor systems as well as access to a unique urban wetland system in the Quad Cities. ENVR researchers have since obtained funding from the Carver Family Trust to expand the number and capabilities of this sensor network.

Prof. Roger Viadero’s contributions in the field are recognized through local partnerships, and also nationally. Dr. Viadero was elected by the membership at large to serve on the Ecological Society of America's Board of Professional Certification.
WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #2. Action 1.e., 1.f.

WQPT-PBS – Educational Outreach, Multicultural and Local Programming

The Educational Outreach Department of WQPT PBS continues its regular weekly events in the community, including First Book classroom visits, Adult ESL and GED prep classes, and presentations to Spring Forward and Stepping Stones afterschool programs. Since January WQPT distributed almost 500 free books.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #2. Action 4.a,b,c,d.

A few months ago, we learned Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr was releasing a sequel to THE BLACK CHURCH called GOSPEL, which focuses on the music of the church. Knowing the level of exceptional local talent in our churches, WQPT reached out to community partners and formed a committee that created The QC Gospel Celebration, a concert held on January 23 with over 700 people in attendance.

Through the generous support of the Adler Theatre Foundation and Royal Neighbors of America we are able to present a free live concert. Performers included soloist Ashley Dean, groups including Gospel Soul Revivers, Jerry Johnson and the Voices of the QC, soloist Dwayne Hodges, Olivet Baptist Male Chorus, Gospel Mission Temple Inspirational Choir and Pastor Sam Kyles and Vision! WQPT’s video crew recorded the concert, edited hour-long program that was broadcast on WQPT in February.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.b, c.

As part of its commitment to feature local programming of interest to the Quad Cities region, WQPT PBS production is underway featuring a documentary on Wharton Field House (the old brickhouse) which will air during April 2024. Wharton Field House has been an integral part of the Quad Cities community for 100 years. It has been served as a venue for world famous

musicians, politicians, professional sports teams and the Moline High School Maroons. Community interest in this program is high. WQPT has posted 1 Facebook post on 2/28/2024 and has over 150 shares in less than 24 hours. Community members are submitting stories and photos to be included in the upcoming program.

For more information, visit wqpt.org/wharton.

WQPT continues to receive generous support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting with a Fiscal Year 2024 grant of \$825,664. While membership revenue continues to remain strong, WQPT actively explores and pursues new avenues of funding.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1. Action 1.c.

WIU Small Business Development Center – Partnerships for Economic Development

The WIU Small Business Development Center continues to make a positive impact on economic development activities in the Quad Cities region. By the numbers, the SBDC offered 1,598 client advising hours, serving 336 clients and of those, 147 self-identified minority clients. Their efforts result in 32 retained jobs, 20 business start-ups, and nearly \$2 million dollars in debt and non-debt financing. The SBDC hosts a number of training events, professional development opportunities, and stakeholder events.

Selected highlighted activities during the past months include:

- Conducted Marketing and Management classes in Macomb for WIU students.
- Collaborated with the City of Macomb to organize the local Business Pitch Competition.
- Secured translation services and funding for the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic, surpassing last year's attendance with over 40 participants in a single night, fostering community outreach, and economic development, and providing valuable real-world education for student workers.
- Scheduled a celebration for National SBDC Day followed by participation in the City of Macomb Business Pitch Competition, which was open to the public.
- Organized an online marketing workshop in Spanish in collaboration with Square.
- Participated in a Mercado on Fifth workshop planning in Spanish, and presented a "Starting Your Business in Illinois" seminar in Spanish at Mercado's building.
- Participated in the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) Conference in Springfield to network with rural partners.
- SBDC Business Advisor Maria Ramos-Elisando is a member of the "Latin Voices" group. This group serves a dual purpose: to disseminate invaluable information beneficial to both advisors and the community and to facilitate the coordination of activities aimed at fostering economic and, consequently, community development.
- Completed a \$250,000 DCEO Grant with the assistance of Kari Woodrum, Sandy Wittig, and WIU Foundation to fund our IL SBDC Centers.

WIU-QC Strategic Initiative #1, Action 5, 7.

WIU Career Preparation and Employer Engagement

The WIU Center for Career Preparation and Employer Engagement continues to support students and alumni to create and achieve their career goals through active career planning and

preparation. The center has made significant strides in improving targeted employer engagement, increasing collaboration with academic colleges and departments, and focusing on serving specific student populations. Leveraging the Quad Cities campus location, the Career Center has created intentional connections with employers and potential supporters to benefit all stakeholders.

Direct career preparation support:

- The Career Center provides a multitude of resources that students and alumni can access via in-person and virtual appointments and online tools, empowering them to navigate their career paths with confidence and success.
 - For the eighth straight semester the Career Center has continued to see an increase in the number of students and alumni that access these center resources.
 - As of March 1, over 250 one-on-one student appointments in Spring 2024 for resumes, interviewing, job searching, and more.
 - Big Interview, with interviewing lessons and AI support has seen over 100 new users this Spring, 1700 overall since launching three years ago.
 - Stepping Blocks, in partnership with CBT and a focus on graduate outcomes, has been integrated into student appointments and presentations.
 - Candid Career, a career video library, is available to students 24/7 and has had over 500 unique views this semester.

Academic partnerships:

- The Career Center has developed program engagement plans and actively promotes its resources to faculty, schools, and departments across the university. By fostering collaboration with academic partners, the Career Center ensures alignment between career preparation initiatives and academic curriculum, enhancing the overall student experience and preparing students for successful careers in their chosen fields.
 - The Career Center provides customized career information to students through faculty requested classroom presentations. As of March 1, over 30 of these have occurred in the Spring 2024 semester in Macomb, QC, and virtually.
 - The Career Center offers resume, cover letter, and interview assignment support to faculty. Students and faculty receive completed rubrics and feedback after required appointments. Over 75 students across 5 courses have been of part of the Spring 2024 program.
 - Faculty can create their own assignments with Big Interview, providing their students with valuable interview preparation practice connected to their field of study.

Career outreach:

- The Career Center has been actively engaged in promoting career readiness among students through tailored workshops offered to student organizations and outreach activities across the university. These events are accessible to a diverse range of students, addressing the specific needs and interests of our diverse student population.
 - Presentations are offered based on organizational needs – evenings, weekends, online. Over twenty student organization-requested events (academic orgs, Greek life, multicultural groups) have taken place in Spring 2024, bringing career awareness to our student leaders.

- Student Career Ambassadors are out on campus (Macomb and QC) daily, meeting students where they are at, providing career resources, and encouraging appointments and event attendance.

Employer Engagement:

- The Career Center has cultivated intentional connections with employers in the region. By highlighting the benefits of partnering with WIU and promoting opportunities for collaboration and engagement, the Career Center enhances its visibility and influence within the local business community, facilitating meaningful connections between students and employers.
 - The Career Center hosts/co-hosts/supports over fifteen annual career fairs providing students and alumni with opportunities to connect directly with representatives from a diverse range of industries and organizations.
 - Career fair employer involvement and student attendance has increased by over 50% in the last three years.
 - As part of the Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) Thriving Illinois plan, the WIU Career Center plays a pivotal role in responding to industry needs by aligning its programs and services with evolving workforce demands and connecting regional employers to academic departments to provide feedback for curricular alignment.

Quad Cities connection and outreach:

- The Quad Cities region serves as a strategic hub for connecting WIU students with employers. By fostering strong partnerships with QC businesses and organizations, the Career Center leverages local resources to enhance internship and career opportunities for students. Connections with QC industry also provide opportunities to explore academic program growth that meets industry needs and can lead to increased enrollment.
 - Following a model of outreach and in-reach, we have brought industry representatives and academic departments together to discuss regional needs and how WIU can partner to meet them with potential new program offerings.
 - Engaged in IBHE's Thrive Quad Cities discussions, exploring education and industry alignment, barriers, and opportunities.
 - Increased student awareness of and participation in internship opportunities in the QC and helped QC employers create project based and micro-internships to engage more students.
- WIU's outreach initiatives strengthen its ties to the Quad Cities community, fostering a sense of mutual support and collaboration. By engaging with local organizations, WIU contributes to community development, economic growth, and social impact initiatives.
 - WIU-QC welcomes local organizations to campus to host meetings and events, over twenty organizations have already utilized our space this semester.
 - WIU's outreach activities often include educational programming and events for Quad Cities residents. These initiatives promote lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.
 - The collaborative parent mentor program with the Moline-Coal Valley School District, provides training for community members to be actively engaged in local education.

- New partnerships with local organizations, including Junior Achievement and the Two Rivers Y have created opportunities to interact with increased numbers of K-12 students in the region.

In conclusion, the WIU's Quad Cities campus remains a vital component of Western Illinois University, the Quad Cities region, and beyond. We are committed to enhancing our responsiveness to the needs of both our students and the surrounding community. Through targeted programmatic initiatives, we aim to provide innovative solutions that address the evolving demands of higher education and workforce development. With a commitment to academic excellence, student success, community engagement, innovation, and strategic initiatives, WIU Quad Cities exemplifies the university's dedication to serving its students, communities, and the public interest.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Report No. 24.3/10 -- Internal Auditing



Internal Auditing

Rita Moore

Director of Internal Audit

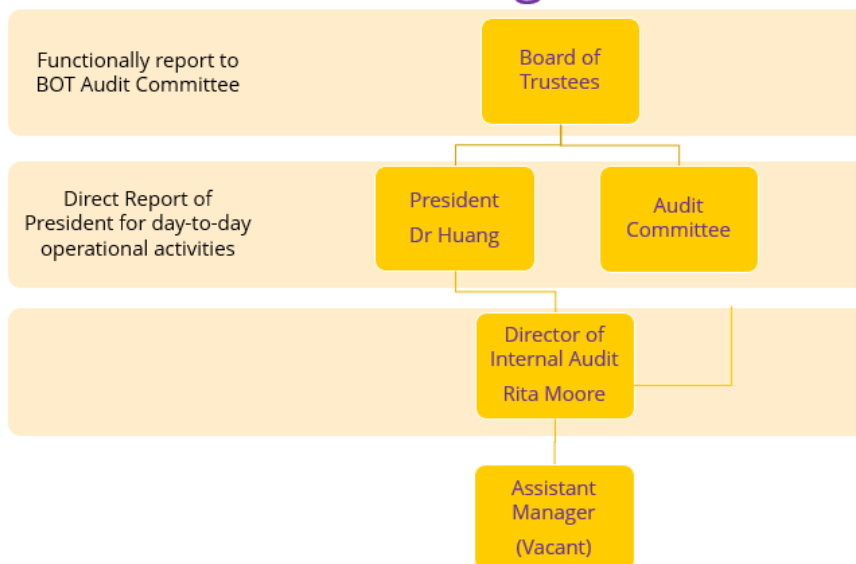
March 21, 2024



Agenda

- Staffing
- Definitions
- Internal vs External Audit
- Internal Audit (IA) Governing Legislation
- Governance/Compliance
- Responsibilities
- Key Dates
- Goals & Objectives
- FY2023 Audit Plan Status
- FY2024-2025 Audit Plan

Staffing



Internal Audit Defined

- Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations.
- It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk, management, controls and governance processes.
(IIA)

Internal Controls

Internal control is broadly defined as a process, effected by an entity's board of directors, management and other personnel, designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of objectives in the following categories:

1. Effectiveness and efficiency of operations.
2. Reliability of financial reporting.
3. Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

(Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO))

Internal vs External Auditors

Area	Internal	External
Employment	Employee of the Organization	Contracted Firm –Independent of the Organization
Purpose of Audits	Business Practices are helping manage risks, meet strategic objectives & are accurate.	Annual accounts give a “true and fair picture”, Compliant with State & Federal regulations.
Audit Agenda	Set by an Audit Plan based upon business’ risks & objectives	Program of work directed by the Office of the Auditor General
Reporting:	President & Board of Trustees Respective Vice President & Mngt. Areas	Office of the Auditor General & Illinois Residents
Audit Reports:	Flexibility in Format	Audit Reports: Standard format & requirements.
Follow-up Process:	Periodic, flexible on process	Upon starting new cycle, or specific request by Legislative Audit Commission (LAC)
Availability of Reports	Confidential, Exempt from FOIA	Published by OAG

Governing Legislation

- Internal Auditing Act (30 ILCS 5)
 - ✓ Focused on State Auditor General Requirements(OAG)
 - ✓ Annual External Audit Requirements
- Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 c (29))
- Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (FCIAA) (30 ILCS 10)

Governance/Compliance

(State Statutes)

➤ Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 (29))

Sec. 2. Open meetings.

(a) Openness required. All meetings of public bodies shall be open to the public unless **excepted in subsection (c) and closed in accordance with Section 2a.**

(c) **Exceptions. A public body may hold closed meetings to consider the following subjects:**

(29) Meetings between **internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents**, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America.

Governance/Compliance

(State Statutes)

➤ Financial Control & Internal Auditing Act (FCIAA) (30 ILCS 10)

- ✓ Focused on Agencies/Universities
- ✓ Requires an internal audit function for Agencies/Universities
- ✓ Defines the qualifications of Chief Audit Executive (CAE)
- ✓ Establishes State Internal Audit Advisory Board (SIAAB)
- ✓ Requires **management** to certify internal controls – annually (May 1)
- ✓ Lists audit area guidelines (11 Areas of consideration)
- ✓ Annual planning and reporting requirements

Governing Boards

- Board of Trustees (BOT) – Audit Committee
- State Internal Auditing Advisory Board ([SIAAB](#))
 - ✓ Required to follow *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing* (standards established by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA))
 - ✓ Continuing Education Requirement of 80 hours every 2 years, of which 24 hours must be in Governmental Accounting or Specialized Field, with a minimum of 20 hours in any one year, 4 hours must be ethics.
 - ✓ Quality Assessment Review of the department every five years (WIU's report was approved July 12, 2022 – Generally Complies)

Staffing Qualifications & Requirements Chief Internal Auditor

FCIAA Qualifications

- Bachelors Degree
- 5 years progressive experience or
- Certified: CPA, CISA or CIA with 4 years of Experience
- Appointment by Chief Executive & Board of Trustees

Directors Experience

- 35+ years of experience
- 25+ in Audit
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- CISA (Certified Information Systems Auditor)
- Bachelors Accounting -WIU
- Experience: Higher Education, Budget, IT Audit, Project Management, Healthcare, Insurance
- Consulting - CPA firm

Governance/Compliance (Key State Statutes)

Financial Control & Internal Auditing Act (FCIAA) (30 ILCS 10)

1. Agency, Organization & Management
2. Administrative Support Services
3. Budgeting, Accounting & Reporting
4. Purchasing, Contracting & Leasing
5. Expenditure Control
6. Personnel & Payroll
7. Fixed Assets & Inventory
8. Revenues & Receivables
9. Petty Cash & Local Funds
10. Grant Administration
11. Information Technology

Governing Documents

- **IIA Standards – International Professional Practices Framework – New Standards released Jan 9, 2024 to become effective Jan 9, 2025**
 - ✓ www.theiia.org/standards
- **Department Charter (reviewed periodically by the Board/Audit Committee- Sept 10, 2021)**
 - ✓ Defines the internal audit activities, purpose, authority & responsibilities
 - ✓ Reporting Relationship within the organization
 - ✓ Authorizes access to records, personnel & physical property relevant to an engagement.
 - ✓ Defines the scope of internal audit activities

Audit Applications

- Pentana – Automated workpaper application
- Idea (Analytics software)
- Google – Surveying tool
- Standard Microsoft Applications

Responsibilities

- **Department Administration**
 - ✓ Budget preparation & monitoring
 - ✓ Staffing (Assistant Manager Approved)
 - ✓ Department Expense Administration
 - ✓ Department Regulatory Compliance
 - ✓ Department Policy & Procedure Administration
 - ✓ Web-site maintenance
 - ✓ Assist in coordination with external audit firms

Responsibilities

➤ Internal Audits

- ✓ Risk Assessment/Annual Planning – University & Affiliates (Foundation/Development)
- ✓ Audits
 - Planning – Opening Meeting
 - Fieldwork – Testing & Validation
 - Closing Meeting – Observations/Action Plan development
 - Reporting – Issues/Observations, Risks, Recommendations, Action Plans
- ✓ Audit Follow-up Process
- ✓ Investigations/Special Projects
- ✓ Administrator for Pentana-Auditing Application
- ✓ Planned/Unplanned Consulting
- ✓ Advisory Services - WIU Committee Participation

Responsibilities

➤ Coordination of Externals Audits

- ✓ Notice & Reports provided to Internal Auditing (State Civil Service System, Radio Station, Athletics and others as occurring)

➤ OAG Audits: 8-9 month process (annual) – May – Feb*

➤ Compliance/Financial Audits

- Generally Coordinated by Controller's Office & VP Finance and Administration's Office
- Complete by March 31 of following Fiscal Year*

➤ Other audits as approved by Management

*Has been extended during COVID years and since

Key Dates

- ✓ May 1 – FCIAA Certification Due Office of the Auditor General
- ✓ June 30 – 2 Year Audit Plan approved by President & Audit Committee
- ✓ Sept 30 – Annual Report due to President for preceding Fiscal Year
- ✓ External Audit – Normal Years: Concluded and issued by March 31- It may be earlier (Finance usually released Jan/Feb)* This has been extended during & since COVID
- ✓ Link to [WIU audits by Auditor General](#)

*These dates have changed due to COVID Pandemic

Goals & Objects

- Compliance with areas discussed
 - FCIAA
 - Development of risk based 2 year audit plan (updated annually)
 - Issue the IA Annual Report
 - Completing audits as planned or modification of Plan when necessary
 - SIAAB Compliance
 - Compliance with IIA Standards
 - Department Charter
 - Quality Assessment Review (QAR) (Completed 2022)
 - Communications with President & BOT Audit Committee- Audit Reports, Annual Independence Declaration, presentation of Audit Charter as needed
 - Continuing Education (80 hours over 2 years)

Value of Internal Auditors

- Find out what is working and what is not
- Monitoring the organization's culture
- Bring organization wide perspective to decisions and consequences
- Look at the organization objectively
- Advocate improvements
- Raise red flags
- Tell it like it is
- Trusted advisor



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/1 -- Approving Separation Agreement and General Release and Authorizing Execution of Instruments

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University and Dr. Guiyou Huang executed an employment agreement pursuant to which Dr. Huang agreed to serve as president of Western Illinois University through June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Dr. Huang desire to end Dr. Huang's employment as president of the University mutually and amicably; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Huang has advised the Board of his intention to step down as president effective March 31, 2024;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board approves the Separation Agreement and General Release negotiated by the Board and Dr. Huang. Be it further resolved that the Board, acting through Chair Carin Stutz, is authorized to execute, deliver, and perform in the name of and on behalf of the University, such instruments as may be necessary in furtherance of this resolution.

SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE

This Separation Agreement and General Release (“Agreement”) is entered into between the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University (“the Board”) and Dr. Guiyou Huang (“Dr. Huang”) (collectively, “the Parties”) as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board and Dr. Huang executed an employment agreement effective September 28, 2023 (“the Employment Agreement”), pursuant to which Dr. Huang agreed to serve as president of Western Illinois University (“the University”) through June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Dr. Huang have agreed to end Dr. Huang’s employment as president of the University mutually and amicably; and

WHEREAS, the Board and Dr. Huang desire to enter into this Agreement to set forth certain rights and duties of the Parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, releases, representations, covenants, and obligations contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration the sufficiency of which is acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Termination of the Employment Agreement. Subject to approval of this Agreement by the Board as provided in Paragraph 13 below, the Parties hereby agree that the Employment Agreement shall terminate at the close of business on March 31, 2024 (“effective date of separation”). The Parties acknowledge and agree that following the effective date of separation, the terms set forth in the Employment Agreement and all rights contained therein shall become null and void. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that following the effective date of separation, neither Dr. Huang nor the University shall have further rights or duties under the Employment Agreement including, without limitation, those specified as surviving termination of the Employment Agreement such as, but not limited to, tenure rights described in Paragraph 7 below, all of which Dr. Huang hereby waives. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that following the effective date of separation, the relationship between the Parties and their rights, duties, and benefits relative to one another, shall be governed solely and exclusively by the terms of this Agreement.
2. Return of Property. Except as otherwise provided in Paragraph 3(c) below, Dr. Huang hereby agrees to return any and all property belonging to the University, including but not limited to office keys, badges, records, documents, electronic information, and electronic equipment on or before the effective date of separation.
3. Consideration. Subject to approval by the Board, and in further consideration of Dr. Huang’s full and final waiver and release of all claims and his other agreements herein, the University agrees to provide Dr. Huang the following severance consideration:
 - (a) payment in an amount equal to ten (10) weeks of his annual salary, less required withholdings, to be made by the University by May 1, 2024, or within 28 days of Dr. Huang’s signing of this Agreement, whichever is later. No such payment shall be made if this Agreement is revoked by Dr. Huang during the period referenced in Paragraph 8 below.
 - (b) The University will compensate Dr. Huang for accrued but unused vacation time consistent with the University’s sick and vacation payout procedures, as applicable. Accrued and unused

sick time will be reported to the State Universities Retirement System, consistent with the University's separation procedures.

(c) Dr. Huang may continue to live in the University residence (2001 Wigwam Hollow Rd., Macomb, IL 61455) with continued use of the University automobile for a period not to exceed 60 days after the effective date of separation.

4. **Release of Claims by Dr. Huang.** In consideration of the promises in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which Dr. Huang expressly acknowledges, Dr. Huang hereby releases, holds harmless from any liability, and forever discharges the University, the state of Illinois, and each of their agents, servants, employees, officers, governing boards and/or boards of trustees personally and in any other capacity ("the Released Parties"), from any and all claims, causes of action, demands, costs, loss of services, expenses, and any and all other damages he ever had, now has, may have, or claims to have on account of or in any way arising out of the incidents, claims, and/or causes of action that were or could have been alleged in relation to his employment as president of the University. Such waiver shall include, but not be limited to: (i) any and all claims of unlawful discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or other alleged violations arising under federal, state, local, or other laws and regulations including, but not limited to, claims arising under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; (ii) claims of wrongful discharge, tort, defamation, misrepresentation, fraud, detrimental reliance, breach of alleged contractual obligations, negligence, and violation of public policy; and (iii) claims for monetary damages or other personal recovery of relief, costs, expenses, and attorney fees of any kind. The only claims not waived and not released by Dr. Huang under this paragraph are: (i) claims that arise from acts or omissions that occur after the date Dr. Huang signs this Agreement; (ii) any claim that as a matter of law cannot be waived; and (iii) claims for benefits that are specifically provided for in this Agreement.
5. **Covenant Not to Sue.** Dr. Huang covenants that he will not initiate or join in on any lawsuit, charge, or complaint before any court, agency, or tribunal against the Released Parties or involving any claim released in this Agreement. Dr. Huang further waives any right to receive any monetary or other benefit, including costs and attorney fees, as a result of any lawsuit, charge, complaint, or administrative proceeding based upon or arising from any claim released in this Agreement.
6. **Non-Disparagement.** Neither Party will make any statement that could reasonably be construed as disparaging of the other Party or the Released Parties.
7. **Relinquishment of Tenure.** Dr. Huang hereby relinquishes his tenured status with the University, including but not limited to any and all property and due process rights afforded to tenured faculty members by University policy, bargaining agreements, or applicable federal or state law. Dr. Huang understands and agrees that by executing this Agreement, he has affirmatively relinquished his tenure and thereby rendered any otherwise-applicable faculty termination provisions inapplicable to him.

8. Older Workers Benefit Protection Act. By signing this Agreement, Dr. Huang acknowledges and agrees that he is waiving any claim, known or unknown, that he has or may have had against the Released Parties for alleged age discrimination. In accordance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended by the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act of 1990, Dr. Huang is specifically advised that he has the following rights in connection with whether he knowingly and voluntarily agrees to be bound by this Agreement:
 - (a) Time to Consider the Agreement. Dr. Huang has twenty-one (21) days in which to decide whether to sign this Agreement. The Parties agree that the making of changes to this Agreement during that period, prior to the signing of the Agreement by both Parties, does not restart the 21-day consideration period, irrespective of whether the changes to the Agreement are material or immaterial.
 - (b) Consultation with an Attorney. Dr. Huang is specifically advised to consult an attorney of his choosing and at his own expense to ensure that he fully understands all of the terms of this Agreement and the rights he is waiving by signing it.
 - (c) Ability to Revoke the Agreement. Dr. Huang will have seven (7) calendar days after signing this Agreement to revoke this Agreement (“Revocation Period”). In order to revoke this Agreement, Dr. Huang must send written notice to: Office of the General Counsel, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455. To be effective, this notice of revocation must be received by counsel before the close of business (4:30 p.m., CST) on the seventh (7th) day after Dr. Huang signs this Agreement. If the seventh day falls on a weekend or other day the University is closed, the notice of revocation is effective if received by counsel by close of business (4:30 p.m., CST) on the first day the University is open following the seventh day.
9. Choice of Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the state of Illinois without regard to any state’s conflict of laws provisions. Any action to enforce this Agreement shall be brought in the state of Illinois.
10. Severability. The releases provided for in this Agreement are to be construed broadly to apply to any and all claims that may be released by contract under applicable law. Should any portion of this Agreement be ruled unenforceable by a tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Agreement and the releases and covenant not to sue contained herein will remain in full force and effect as to any and all other claims.
11. Entire Agreement. When approved by the Board and executed by the Parties, this Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties. The Parties acknowledge and confirm that no other representation, promise, covenant, or agreement of any kind whatsoever has been made to cause them to execute this Agreement; and that all agreements and understandings between the Parties are embodied and expressed in this Agreement.

12. Voluntary Agreement. Dr. Huang represents and warrants that he has carefully read this Agreement, that he has had a full and complete opportunity to review and discuss this Agreement with an attorney, that he fully understands the contents of this Agreement and any rights that he may be waiving through the execution of this Agreement, and that he is signing this Agreement freely and voluntarily. Dr. Huang further represents and declares that, in executing this Agreement, he relied solely on his own judgment, belief and knowledge, and that he has not been influenced in any matter by any representations or statements made by any representatives of the University. Dr. Huang acknowledges that no representative of the University has made any promise, representation or warranty whatsoever, written or oral, as any inducement to enter this Agreement, except as expressly set forth within this Agreement.
13. Board Approval. This Agreement is subject to approval by the Board. If the Board does not approve this Agreement, this Agreement shall be deemed null and void.

BY SIGNING BELOW, THE PARTIES REPRESENT THAT THEY HAVE READ THE ENTIRE AGREEMENT, UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, AND OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS HEREIN.

Accepted and agreed to by:
Western Illinois University

Dr. Guiyou Huang

Carin Stutz
Chair, Board of Trustees
Western Illinois University

Date

Dr. Guiyou Huang

Date

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/2 -- Appointing Interim President

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University has been notified of Dr. Guiyou Huang's intention to step down as president of the University effective March 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to appoint an interim president of Western Illinois University, effective April 1, 2024, until a permanent president has been hired;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board appoints Dr. Kristi Mindrup to serve as Interim President and confers on her all powers and authority designated to the president under Section II.B.2 of the Board of Trustees Regulations. Be it further resolved that the Board delegates authority to Board of Trustees Chair Carin Stutz to negotiate a more comprehensive contract with the interim president, to be ratified by the Board of Trustees at a subsequent meeting.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/3 -- Establishing Interim President's Salary

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University previously offered an interim president an annual salary of \$300,000; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kristi Mindrup has asked for a 10% reduction in that amount in support of the University's financial sustainability;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves a monthly salary to be paid to Dr. Mindrup of \$22,500 for the duration of her appointment as Interim President.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/4 -- Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition Recommendation

Resolution:

WHEREAS, tuition is to be established annually by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees carefully considered the Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition, Fees, Housing and Dining rates; and

WHEREAS, general guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education were followed; and

WHEREAS, appropriate groups on campus were involved in the establishment of tuition for FY2025; and

WHEREAS, the rate would remain unchanged at \$326.70 per credit hour for new undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, the rate would remain unchanged at \$374.93 per credit hour for graduate students; and

WHEREAS, Western Illinois University maintains a commitment to access and affordability;

THEREFORE, be it resolved in accordance with the priorities and goals of *Higher Values in Higher Education* that the Board of Trustees approves tuition rates for FY2025 (effective Fall Semester 2024) as enumerated in the FY2025 Tuition Recommendation document which follows.

FY2025 Tuition Recommendation

	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	Proposed FY2025		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
I. <u>Undergraduate Students</u>						
Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)	\$ 9,238.20	\$ 9,515.40	\$ 9,801.00	\$ 9,801.00	\$ -	0.00%
Per Credit Hour	\$ 307.94	\$ 317.18	\$ 326.70	\$ 326.70	\$ -	0.00%
II. <u>Graduate Students</u>						
Academic Year (Based on 24 SCH)	\$ 8,481.84	\$ 8,736.24	\$ 8,998.32	\$ 8,998.32	\$ -	0.00%
Per Credit Hour	\$ 353.41	\$ 364.01	\$ 374.93	\$ 374.93	\$ -	0.00%

III. Out-of-State Students - Domestic Students

New students beginning fall semester 2016 at Western Illinois University who have a permanent legal domicile within the United States of America will be assessed in-state tuition.

IV. Out-of-State Students - International Students

International students tuition will be assessed at 2.0 times the in-state rate.

V. Active Duty Military Students

United States military personnel who are, as of the official university census day each semester, serving in active duty status for the purposes other than training and are receiving federal tuition assistance, will be assessed the tuition rate established by the Armed Forces.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/5 -- Fiscal Year 2025 Housing and Dining Rates Recommendation

Resolution:

WHEREAS, housing and dining rates are to be established annually by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees carefully considered the Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition, Fees, Housing and Dining rates; and

WHEREAS, general guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education were followed; and

WHEREAS, appropriate groups on campus were involved in the establishment of housing and dining rates for FY2025; and

WHEREAS, the double occupancy housing and dining rate would be an academic year increase of \$400.00 or 3.66 percent; and

WHEREAS, Western Illinois University maintains a commitment to access and affordability;

THEREFORE, be it resolved in accordance with the priorities and goals of *Higher Values in Higher Education* that the Board of Trustees approves housing and dining charges for FY2025 (effective Fall Semester 2024) as enumerated in the FY2025 Housing and Dining Rates Recommendation document which follows.

FY2025 Housing and Dining Rates

	FY2021 V	FY2022 W	FY2023 X	FY2024 Y	Proposed FY 2025 - Z	
					\$ Change	% Change
HOUSING AND DINING RATES						
<u>Academic Year (Fall and Spring)</u>						
Housing and Dining - Double Occupancy	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 10,192.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,920.00	\$ 11,320.00	\$ 400.00 3.66%
Housing and Dining - Single Occupancy	12,500.00	13,000.00	13,394.00	13,890.00	14,411.50	521.50 3.75%
Housing and Dining - Super Single	12,800.00	13,312.00	13,715.00	14,220.00	14,755.00	535.00 3.76%
Housing and Dining - Super Double	10,400.00	10,792.00	11,100.00	11,520.00	11,920.00	400.00 3.47%
Housing and Dining - Suite Double	10,400.00	10,792.00	11,100.00	11,520.00	11,920.00	400.00 3.47%
Housing and Dining - Suite Single	15,020.00	15,580.00	16,021.00	16,560.00	17,149.00	589.00 3.56%
Housing and Dining - Grote Hall Double Occupancy	10,750.00	11,142.00	11,450.00	11,870.00	12,270.00	400.00 3.37%
Housing and Dining - Grote Hall Single Occupancy	12,488.00	12,939.50	13,295.00	13,757.50	14,225.00	467.50 3.40%
Housing - Double Occupancy Westbrook House	5,800.00	6,032.00	6,220.00	6,470.00	6,730.00	260.00 4.02%
Housing - Single Occupancy Westbrook House	7,250.00	7,540.00	7,770.00	8,090.00	8,420.00	330.00 4.08%
Housing - One Bedroom Unfurnished	5,900.00	6,130.00	6,320.00	6,580.00	6,850.00	270.00 4.10%
Housing - One Bedroom Furnished	6,300.00	6,500.00	6,700.00	6,970.00	7,250.00	280.00 4.02%
<u>Break Housing</u>						
¹ Acad. Year Break Housing (Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring)	\$ 430.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 470.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 20.00 4.17%
Summer Break Housing (May & August)	320.00	340.00	360.00	370.00	380.00	10.00 2.70%
<u>Summer Semester</u>						
Housing - Double Occupancy	\$ 760.00	\$ 790.00	\$ 815.00	\$ 830.00	\$ 865.00	\$ 35.00 4.22%
Housing - Single Occupancy	1,170.00	1,185.00	1,225.00	1,245.00	1,295.00	50.00 4.02%
Housing - Double Occupancy Westbrook House	1,160.00	1,206.40	1,244.00	1,294.00	1,346.00	52.00 4.02%
Housing - Single Occupancy Westbrook House	1,450.00	1,508.00	1,554.00	1,618.00	1,684.00	66.00 4.08%
Housing - One Bedroom Unfurnished	1,180.00	1,226.00	1,264.00	1,316.00	1,370.00	54.00 4.10%
Housing - One Bedroom Furnished	1,260.00	1,300.00	1,340.00	1,394.00	1,450.00	56.00 4.02%
<u>Additional Fees</u>						
Res Net	\$ 210.00	\$ 220.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 10.00 4.17%

¹Housing charge is divided by break session

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/6 -- Fiscal Year 2025 Fee Recommendation

Resolution:

WHEREAS, fees are to be established annually by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees carefully considered the Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition, Fees, Housing and Dining rates; and

WHEREAS, general guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education were followed; and

WHEREAS, appropriate groups on campus were involved in the establishment of fees for FY2025; and

WHEREAS, the rate would remain unchanged at \$101.56 per credit hour for Macomb campus students enrolled in face-to-face courses and extension courses; and

WHEREAS, the rate would remain unchanged at \$101.56 per credit hour for Quad Cities campus students enrolled in face-to-face courses; and

WHEREAS, Western Illinois University commits to providing appropriate services to all students, regardless of campus or modality, and

WHEREAS, Western Illinois University maintains a commitment to access and affordability;

THEREFORE, be it resolved in accordance with the priorities and goals of *Higher Values in Higher Education* that the Board of Trustees approves fee rates for FY2025 (effective Fall Semester 2024) as enumerated in the FY2025 Fee Recommendation document which follows.

	FY2022	FY2023	2024	Proposed FY2025		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
I. MANDATORY STUDENT FEE MACOMB AND EXTENSION ALLOCATIONS						
<u>Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)</u>						
Activity	\$ 123.30	\$ 138.30	\$ 145.80	\$ 145.80	-	0.00%
Fine Arts Activity	66.30	66.30	66.30	66.30	-	0.00%
Athletic	530.40	530.40	543.90	543.90	-	0.00%
Bond Revenue	867.90	897.90	913.20	913.20	-	0.00%
Technology	180.00	182.70	204.30	204.30	-	0.00%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	636.30	651.30	681.30	681.30	-	0.00%
Health Center	282.30	282.30	312.30	312.30	-	0.00%
Publication	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	40.80	40.80	40.80	40.80	-	0.00%
Transit	113.40	135.90	138.90	138.90	-	0.00%
Total Per Academic Year	\$ 2,840.70	\$ 2,925.90	\$ 3,046.80	\$ 3,046.80	-	0.00%
<u>Fall or Spring Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 4.11	\$ 4.61	\$ 4.86	\$ 4.86	\$ -	0.00%
Fine Arts Activity	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.21	-	0.00%
Athletic	17.68	17.68	18.13	18.13	-	0.00%
Bond Revenue	28.93	29.93	30.44	30.44	-	0.00%
Technology	6.00	6.09	6.81	6.81	-	0.00%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	21.21	21.71	22.71	22.71	-	0.00%
Health Center	9.41	9.41	10.41	10.41	-	0.00%
Publication	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	-	0.00%
Transit	3.78	4.53	4.63	4.63	-	0.00%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 94.69	\$ 97.53	\$ 101.56	\$ 101.56	\$ -	0.00%
<u>Summer Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.95	\$ 3.11	\$ 3.11	\$ -	0.00%
Fine Arts Activity	1.41	1.41	1.41	1.41	-	0.00%
Athletic	11.32	11.32	11.60	11.60	-	0.00%
Bond Revenue	18.52	19.16	19.48	19.48	-	0.00%
Technology	3.84	3.90	4.36	4.36	-	0.00%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	13.58	13.89	14.53	14.53	-	0.00%
Health Center	6.02	6.02	6.66	6.66	-	0.00%
Publication	-	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	-	0.00%
Transit	2.42	2.90	2.96	2.96	-	0.00%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 60.61	\$ 62.42	\$ 64.98	\$ 64.98	\$ -	0.00%

	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	Amount	FY2025 \$ Change	% Change
II. Mandatory Student Fee Quad Cities Allocations						
<u>Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)</u>						
Activity	\$ 131.70	\$ 131.70	\$ 131.70	\$ 131.70	\$ -	0.00%
Technology	150.30	150.30	150.30	150.30	-	0.00%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	318.00	318.00	318.00	318.00	-	0.00%
Publication	20.40	20.40	20.40	20.40	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	72.60	72.60	72.60	72.60	-	0.00%
Transit	140.10	140.10	140.10	140.10	-	0.00%
Other Mandatory Fees	976.80	1,516.80	2,213.70	2,213.70	-	0.00%
Total Per Academic Year	\$ 1,809.90	\$ 2,349.90	\$ 3,046.80	\$ 3,046.80	\$ -	0.00%
<u>Fall or Spring Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 4.39	\$ 4.39	\$ 4.39	\$ 4.39	\$ -	0.00%
Technology	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.01	\$ -	0.00%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	\$ -	0.00%
Publication	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	\$ -	0.00%
Talent Grant	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	\$ -	0.00%
Transit	4.67	4.67	4.67	4.67	\$ -	0.00%
Other Mandatory Fees	32.56	50.56	73.79	73.79	\$ -	0.00%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 60.33	\$ 78.33	\$ 101.56	\$ 101.56	\$ -	0.00%
<u>Summer Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.81	\$ -	0.00%
Technology	3.21	3.21	3.21	3.21	-	0.00%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	6.78	6.78	6.78	6.78	-	0.00%
Publication	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55	-	0.00%
Transit	2.99	2.99	2.99	2.99	-	0.00%
Other Mandatory Fees	20.84	32.36	47.20	47.20	-	0.00%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 38.62	\$ 50.14	\$ 64.98	\$ 64.98	\$ -	0.00%

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 22, 2024

Resolution No. 24.3/7 -- Fiscal Year 2025 Student Health Insurance Fee Recommendation

Resolution:

WHEREAS, Western Illinois University has reviewed the Student Health Insurance options for Western Illinois University students; and

WHEREAS, Western Illinois University proposes that the Student Health Insurance Program rates increase with Fiscal Year 2025 to \$1,061.00 per half year or \$2,122.00 per full year; and

WHEREAS, special provisions have been made for students attending outside the designated terms of August 1 to January 31 and February 1 to July 31;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Western Illinois University Student Health Insurance Program rate for Fiscal Year 2025 as proposed.