

Western Illinois University

Division of Student Success

Impact Report



2025-2026

mission

The Division of Student Success strives to support students by fostering **meaningful connections**, promoting **inclusive well-being**, and empowering them to **build their future capacity**. Through these efforts, the division equips students with the skills, knowledge, and resilience needed to thrive.

direct reporting units	access & support	connection & engagement	health & wellness
Leatherneck Athletics	New Student and Family Programs	Building Services	Beu Health Center
Office of Public Safety	International Admissions	Digital Rec Center	Campus Recreation
Quad Cities Student Success	Transfer Services	Harry Mussatto Golf Course	Student Development and Success Center
Student Belonging and Community Relations	Undergraduate Admissions	Multicultural Center	Student Rights and Responsibilities
University Marketing and Communications		Office of Student Engagement	Threat Assessment
		University Housing and Dining Services	University Counseling Center
		University Union	Veterans Resource Center

2025-2026 Impact Highlights

The Division of Student Success at Western Illinois University was active throughout the year, focused on supporting student access, engagement, well-being, and success through integrated services, strategic recruitment, and innovative programming.

Full details and quarterly reports can be found at wiu.edu/vpss.



2025-2026 Impact Highlights



1

Saw a successful campus-wide launch of Purple and Gold Points.

2

Welcomed Building Services and International Student Recruitment to the Division.

3

Enhanced Quad Cities student support via integration into the Division

1,385 Events

An average of 43 student events per week hosted



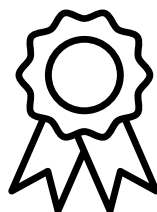
1,400+

Assisted students through 1,406 care cases



15,000+

RockyBot recieved 15,773 texts from current students



Champions

Women's Basketball, 2026
OVC Tournament Champions

75,800+

Swipes to the Rec Center



200,000+

Welcomed 208,704 visitors to campus.



Focus Areas

The following priorities guided the Division of Student Success throughout the 2025-2026 year. Staff focused on enhancing the Leatherneck experience, long-term initiatives, and staff planning, setting the Division up for future success.

Educating the Campus Community
Communicating our Brand
Rebuilding Institutional Trust
Building Partnerships

New Student
Recruitment
Efforts

Financial
Sustainability

Grant Opportunities
Operational Efficiencies
Revenue Generation
Long-Term Planning

Student Support Positions
Student Aid and Financial Assistance
Communication Strategies
Student Programming and Events

Direct Student
Support

Universitywide
Retention
Buy-In

All-In Approach
Infusing Throughout the University
Revitalizing the University Retention Plan
Cocurricular Partnerships

Access and Support

Our focus on student access and support relates directly to our recruitment and retention efforts. The following units help shape our new student enrollment efforts and focus on recruitment and support for traditional and post-traditional student populations.



Undergraduate Admissions

Many roads lead students to WIU, and Undergraduate Admissions is dedicated to ensuring a tailor-made path exists for students graduating from high school, transferring from community college, considering college for career advancement, or joining as an international student.

wiu.edu/admissions

New Student and Family Programs

New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) provides various services and areas of support that assist students toward a successful transition into the Western Illinois University community.

wiu.edu/nsfp



International Student Recruitment

Western Illinois University is proud to welcome Leathernecks from all over the world. International Student Recruitment efforts aim to open the door for individuals to call WIU home throughout the globe.

wiu.edu/international

Undergraduate Admissions

- Integrated Military-Affiliated Recruitment within the Office of Admissions by introducing a dedicated military recruitment staff member, with outreach and planned visits to 8 regional military facilities, as well as plans for messaging and visits to certified JRTOC programs at secondary schools throughout the State of Illinois.
- Expanded the use of the CRM platform (Slate) to manage all events coordinated by the Office of Admissions.
- Developed new offerings to better utilize Dual Enrollment programs as a tool for recruitment of new students
- Drafted a Strategic Undergraduate Recruitment Plan (SRP)
- Launched EdSights/RockyBot for admitted students, providing an immediate 24/7 connection with prospective students.

New Student & Family Programs (NSFP)

- Celebrated the induction of first-generation students into Alpha Alpha Alpha, the First Gen Honor Society, and transfer students into Tau Sigma, Transfer Student Honor Society.
- Recognized the graduation of two HOPE scholars from the inaugural cohort in May 2026.
- Hosted weeks dedicated to First Generation Students, Transfer Students, and Adult Learners.
- The Transfer Student Organization established itself this year and hosted 3-4 transfer events each semester. Half of these events were co-sponsored with other campus organizations.

International Admissions

- Transitioned the oversight and leadership of international student recruitment to the Access and Support area in the Division of Student Success.
- Recruited and hired an entirely new international admissions team, including a new Director of International Student Recruitment, an Immigration Specialist, and processing staff.
- Began the physical relocation of the International Admissions function to Sherman Hall and as part of the overall admissions team.



Connection and Engagement

Students who are connected to our campus and communities perform, persist, and succeed at higher rates than those who are not. The following units are focused on enhancing student engagement and connection across campus.

Building Services

Building Services is dedicated to maintaining the interior physical appearance of our campus. The Building Service team cleans, disinfects, and sanitizes all departments, classrooms, and buildings.

wiu.edu/facilities_management

Harry Mussatto Golf Course

The rolling terrain of the Lamoine River Valley provides spectacular views and elevation changes, rare for this part of Illinois. Stadium features greet the golfer with beautifully sculpted mounds and carefully preserved forests of oaks, hickories, and cottonwoods.

wiu.edu/golf

Multicultural Center

The Multicultural Center (MCC) aims to advance the goals of educational, social, and cultural awareness, by providing resources to enhance the campus community's understanding and appreciation of all identities.

wiu.edu/mcc

Office of Student Engagement

The Office of Student Engagement's mission is to provide students with practical, educational, and leadership opportunities that complement the academic experience and foster a sense of belonging.

wiu.edu/ose

University Housing and Dining Services

The mission of UHDS is to provide safe, clean, well-maintained facilities, a creative, flexible dining program and residence hall environments that are stimulating and supportive of the academic mission of the university at the most competitive price possible.

wiu.edu/uhrs

University Union

Providing services and facilities to foster growth and success, the University Union is the hub for social interaction. Located in the center of campus, WIU's University Union houses a food court, convenience store, meeting & banquet rooms, the University Bookstore, a hotel and service center.

wiu.edu/uu

Building Services

- Facilitated clearing and moving items from the QC campus to Macomb (2 semi-trailers and over 10 trips).
- A pilot program was implemented in which a voluntary layoff or a move to a different work location was offered during spring break.
- 75 employees were 100% in compliance with OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and HazCom training before May 18, 2026.

Harry Mussatto Golf Course

- The Golf Course has had 3,147 complimentary student rounds.
- 14 successful events hosted so far, including the annual Leatherneck Club Classic, with 20 more on the schedule for Summer/Fall.
- Work is continuing on plans for irrigation and erosion control.

Multicultural Center (MCC)

- Hosted over 200 events with over 5,100 total attendees.
- 89 cultural-identity-based events occurred with 3,255 total attendees.
- The Welcome Back Bash, hosted during move-in weekend, had 251 attendees, up from 206 in August 2024.
- The Women's Center more than tripled the number of attendees at its events.
- Saw a 2% increase in international student attendance, a 1.3% increase in Transfer student attendance, and a 12.3% increase in Senior student attendance.

Office of Student Engagement (OSE)

- Purple & Gold Points Program ended the year with over a million points earned by students across both campuses.
- 1385 events were posted in Leatherneck Link, an average of 43 per week.
- In Fraternity & Sorority Life, 109 members achieved a GPA between 3.5 and 4.0 for the Spring 2026 semester, with 28 students earning a 4.000.
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. earned the highest-achieving chapter GPA with a notable 3.522.

University Housing & Dining Services (UHDS)

- Sought student feedback, resulting in projects that enhance their experience. Examples are the purchasing of new laundry equipment in Corbin and Olson Halls and the new Super Singles.
- Developed new programming to add meal plan points to assist students in learning to budget.
- Continued support of students attending national and regional conferences that provide leadership and professional development.

University Union

- Hosted a variety of events and meetings within the University Union and Campus, totaling 5,376 bookings and 1,805 events, bringing 208,704 to campus.
- Redeveloped the lower level to welcome OSE and enhance the building's student-engaged area.
- For this fiscal year, we saved students over \$86,000 in textbook costs by continuing our efforts with our vendor and rental program.
- Close to 2,000 people stay at the University Hotel.

Health and Wellness

Overall student health and wellness is at the forefront of our minds as the following units are committed to health education, wrap-around support services, and our overall efforts to enhance student wellness.

Beu Health Center

The mission of Beu Health Center is to enhance the educational process through assisting students in the modification or removal of health-related barriers to learning by providing appropriate medical services and collaborative programming.

wiu.edu/beu

Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation provides life-enhancing, recreational opportunities through the promotion of active lifestyle, personal growth, and experiential learning. We provide life balance with recreation.

wiu.edu/campusrec

Student Development and Success Center

The SDSC is committed to providing a student-centered, co-curricular environment that supports the academic mission of the University and embraces the belief that learning is not confined solely within traditional classroom boundaries.

wiu.edu/sdsc

Student Rights and Responsibilities

SRR endeavors to support WIU's core values by reinforcing standards of academic excellence, promoting educational opportunity, enhancing personal growth, and highlighting the importance of social responsibility while protecting student rights and addressing behavioral problems.

wiu.edu/srr

University Counseling Center

UCC contributes to the University's academic mission by providing mental health services that promote the overall wellness and personal growth of our students so that they may strive for academic excellence, personal growth, and social responsibility.

wiu.edu/ucc

Veteran Resource Center

The Center is committed to assisting those who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military and their family members. The VRC provides a one-stop location to ensure that all veterans and service members are afforded the greatest opportunities for success.

wiu.edu/veterans

Beu Health Center

- Provided care to 2,889 patients this academic year.
- Established an on-site pharmacy partnership with Moreland & Devitt, improving student access to medications.
- Beu expanded outreach services through continued collaboration with the School of Nursing and the athletics programs.
- Through coordinated staff efforts, student immunization compliance reached 97%.

University Counseling Center (UCC)

- Completed 28 outreach events in the 25–26 academic year.
- Completed 1,408 clinical services—including intakes, individual and group counseling, crisis appointments, and 1:1 skills sessions.
- 92.9% of students returned to the University Counseling Center for continued care.
- 92.15% of students rated overall counselor effectiveness at 8 or higher on a 10–point scale.

Student Development and Success Center (SDSC)

- Hosted intentional late-night alcohol alternative education programming, Paint and Sip mocktail parties, in the residence halls, seeing over 200 in attendance and an event approval rating of over 95%.
- Worked with students on 107 new accommodation cases and 1,406 care cases.
- Updated documentation processes for disability resources, enabling clearer communication and ensuring students receive the necessary level of support and advocacy.
- Hosted magnet-making for mental health and wellness and social events.

Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR)

- Completed new efforts to educate students about the Code of Student Conduct, resulting in a decrease in overall conduct cases. 554 total cases were processed during the 2025–2026 academic year, representing a 53% decrease overall.
- Implemented education on increased sanctions, seeing a reduction in the number of repeat offenders. 127 students were repeat offenders, a 72% decrease from last year.
- Collaborated with the Office of Student Engagement to develop workflow procedures for student organization conduct and policy violations.

Campus Recreation

- Served 75,808 patron entries, averaging 207.7 entries per day.
- Intramural Sports saw 232 participants from 49 teams.
- Held 17 events, bringing in 339 attendees.
- Facility spaces were booked 774 times by 83 different organizations.
- Hosted the ADFPF (American Drug-Free Powerlifting Federation) Full Power Nationals powerlifting meet. 35 National Records and 4 World Records were set during this meet.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

- WIU is now an official Department of Defense SkillBridge partner.
- Received more than \$13,000 in donations during the Day of Giving.
- Assisted military-affiliated students in applying for, maintaining, and utilizing state and federal educational benefits, resulting in more than \$2 million in student aid that directly supports student success.

Direct Reporting Units

Multiple departments and offices report directly to the Vice President for Student Success. These functions serve both internal and external populations of the University and support the overall mission of the Division of Student Success.



Leatherneck Athletics

Leatherneck Athletics is a proud member of the Ohio Valley Conference, representing 17 competing sports. Leatherneck Athletics provides an outstanding intercollegiate experience for academically successful and diverse student-athletes.

wiu.edu/athletics

Office of Public Safety

Western Illinois University's Office of Public Safety (OPS) ensures the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

wiu.edu/ops

Quad Cities Student Success

Quad Cities Student Success is dedicated to providing all-around student support to students from the area attending Western Illinois University at our Moline, Illinois location.

wiu.edu/qc

Student Belonging and Community Relations

Focused on assisting students in their Leatherneck experience, the Student Belonging and Community Relations team works to connect WIU to our students and our local communities.

University Communication and Marketing

University Communications and Marketing promotes WIU's mission and goals to the public, as well as strategic communication services and support to the WIU community.

wiu.edu/universitymarketing

Leatherneck Athletics

- Men's Head Soccer Coach Eric Johnson announced his retirement after 29 years with the Leathernecks.
- Women's Bowling began competition.
- Received an Accelerating Academic Success Program Grant for \$80,000 to help increase student-athlete success and strengthen efforts to increase student-athlete graduation rates.
- The women's basketball team secured the program's first Ohio Valley Conference Tournament championship
- For the Spring semester, the Leathernecks posted an overall department GPA of 3.26. The women's basketball team posted a 3.85 GPA, while the men's soccer team's 3.27 GPA led all men's teams. Fifty-seven student-athletes had a 4.0 GPA for the fall semester, 188 posted a 3.60 GPA or higher, and 246 finished with a 3.00 GPA or higher.

Office of Public Safety (OPS)

- Through creative budget reallocation and resource use, it has acquired a new squad car, the first new vehicle in many years, to begin replacing the aging fleet.
- New duty gear was purchased using both grants and local funds to ensure the OPS team is equipped with up-to-date safety and security gear.
- In the fall semester, connected directly with students through University 100 courses, Alcohol Awareness programming, and Domestic Violence presentations.
- Active with the First Responder Elementary School event, interacting with over 200 elementary school students.

University Marketing and Communications

- Developed a framework for the brand refresh scheduled for next year.
- Led and launched the new WIU website in collaboration with University Technology.
- Implemented new university-wide social media guidelines.
- Led new digital sign installation project at Western Hall

Student Belonging and Community Relations

- Provided outreach and support to students throughout the semester related to academic success and concerns.
- The Student Belonging and Retention met regularly to discuss factors that may be impeding student progress and retention.
- Involved with various committees in the Macomb community and regularly interacted with those entities.

Quad Cities Student Success

- Entered into an agreement with the Riverbend Food Bank to reestablish a campus food bank in order to receive food supplies for WIU-QC students and staff.
- Established a membership agreement with the Two Rivers YMCA that provides WIU-QC campus-based students with membership.
- Hosted a WIU-QC Student Scholarship Fair to promote WIU and community-based scholarships from local employers, foundations, and nonprofit organizations.

Future Focuses

The following strategic priorities will guide the work of the Division of Student Success in the coming year.

Enacting the Strategic Recruitment Plan
Revamping Collaborative Partnerships
Improving Campus Visit Experience
Communicating Return on Investment

New Student
Recruitment
Efforts

University
Alignment

Collaborating with Academic Affairs
Infusing Leatherneck Athletics
Staff Development and Training
Refreshing and Strengthening Brand

Infusing Throughout University
Website Redevelopment
Student First Focus
Redevelop Student Communication

Customer
Service

Student
Experience

Investing in First Four
Enhancing Purple and Gold Points
Programming for Retention
Increase Faculty and Staff Involvement

Supporting Our Work

There are many ways to contribute to the Division of Student Success and our focus on supporting our students. Gifts can be made to the following funds supporting students and the Division of Student Success.



Fund Name

Student Services General Support (883256)
Campus Recreation (883160)
Counseling Center (883088)
Fraternity and Sorority Life (883427)
Harry Mussatto Golf Improvements (883535)
Kelvin Butts Memorial Scholarship (884386)
Leatherneck Retention Fund (883852)
Multicultural Center (883657)
Student Development and Success Center (883532)
University Housing and Dining (883254)
Veterans Assistance (883014)

Gifts will be processed by:

Western Illinois University Foundation
303 Sherman Hall
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390

(309) 298-1861
wiufoundation@wiu.edu

To make an online gift, please visit
wiu.edu/give

For more information about these and additional giving opportunities contact:

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