



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

Evidence Document

Office of the President

John W. Bardo

**From the President:
A Monthly Message from Wichita State University
President John Bardo
Academic Year 2017-2018**

Additional information: This evidence file replicates information for public viewing archived on the Shocker Open Access Repository web page:
<https://soar.wichita.edu/handle/10057/10867> (accessed April 6, 2021).

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President's Message: It takes all of us

Posted: Thursday, August 17, 2017 Posted: 12:01:08 PM CT



It couldn't be a more exciting time to work at Wichita State.

We are in the midst of a lot of change to grow as a nationally recognized research university, but I don't want anyone on this campus to wonder if that means we're reducing our commitment to Kansas. We are dedicated to the people of Kansas and helping them get a leg up in life. And that will never stop.

Universities across the country face an uphill battle to continue to grow enrollment because of shifting demographics, including a decline in college-bound high school graduates. It's no different in Kansas, where we've seen a five-year, 5 percent drop in public university enrollment.

At the end of the day, we have to increase both recruitment and retention of students to make a more meaningful impact in the community. That takes a coordinated effort and the willingness to reach outside of our comfort zone and try new methods for growing the university.

It's beginning to work in those areas where we've taken a systematic approach to improvement. Below are some highlights I shared at the recent faculty and staff semester kickoff, but it's really only a snapshot of the great work being done.

Strategic Enrollment Management

A year ago, we started on the path toward a Strategic Enrollment Management plan. This plan has involved a concerted effort by many of you with the goal to grow enrollment, effectively promote Wichita State, better serve all students and enhance every student's college experience.

One of the most successful initiatives to come out of SEM is the Teacher Apprenticeship Program. This was spearheaded by the College of Education and was created as a direct result of a need to address the teacher shortage in Kansas.

So far, the program has more than 80 students in only its first semester. Talk about a win-win: We responded quickly to a need in the community and grew our enrollment at the same time.

Concerted recruitment and retention

Last year we saw the largest freshman class in the history of WSU, and though nothing will be official until the 20th day of classes, I expect we will have even more this year. That's no accident. It's because of systematic recruitment and retention work. It's creating personal connections through admissions outreach, recruitment fellows and anyone willing to take the time to help someone with a question.

We are also seeing growth in minority students and in adult, military and online education programs. And the concerted recruitment effort along the I-35 corridor – in cities such as Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Dallas and Kansas City – has helped us go from only 42 new I-35 students in 2012 to 227 students in 2017.

Working together, we are making a difference. Yet we still have room for improvement.

Retention continues to be a struggle for Wichita State. I'm encouraged by the increased variety of living learning communities, as well as the creation and growth of OneStop – where students have access to 24/7 support with admissions, financial aid, records/registration and student accounts. But overall retention still remains a major growth area for us.

Other areas of opportunity include new revised programs, transfer students, first-generation and diverse students, military and graduate students, applied-learning approaches, skills-based education and adult learning models. As we systematically focus on these areas together, we will see direct positive results.

Shocker proud

And don't forget – retention is closely tied to pride. Creating and maintaining a community people want to return to means discarding old stereotypes.

We are not a commuter school. We are not a small local university. And according to federal and state crime statistics, this is not a dangerous campus.

We have so much of which to be proud. Students are living on campus in larger numbers, leading to a more vibrant environment. We are now part of the American Athletic Conference in which we can be compared to universities more like ourselves.

We're building partnerships with the community, growing applied learning and research opportunities for students, and attracting businesses that will continue to make WSU a true destination.

There's a sense of community for us all to embrace.

We are a major emerging research university of national and global stature. We care about our community, partner with the people around us and are here to make life better for our students and the community.

We are Wichita State!

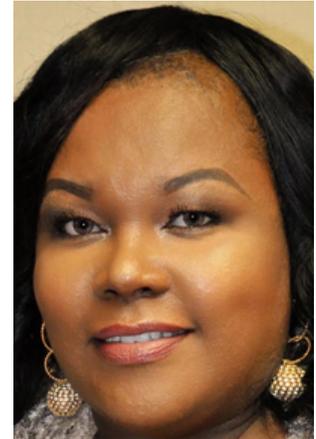
Welcome back, Shockers. It's going to be a great year.

Diversity Update: A semester full of diverse initiatives

Posted: Thursday, August 17, 2017 Posted: 12:02:49 PM CT

Welcome to the 2017-2018 academic year.

We are excited to announce the new Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. The new division will respond to the different needs of minorities, older students, veterans, students with disability and other variations reflective of the broad human population. Our goal is to cultivate and maintain community relationships with key constituency groups and provide strategic advice to create a campus climate that is reflective of the community it serves.



This division will enhance the strategic focus of the university and will include the following areas:

- Office of Community Engagement and Opportunity
- President's Diversity Council
- Public Policy and Management Center
- Tilford Commission
- TRIO/ GEAR UP Programs
- The Captain Riley Leroy Pitts Military and Veteran Student Center

Each of these areas are comprised of highly dedicated faculty, staff and students whose unrelenting pursuit of community service will elevate Wichita State University as the model for applied learning.

I am proud to represent this university as the first Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement, and this time in our history demonstrates now more than ever that diversity and community engagement are vitally important to building and maintaining the fabric of our society. This semester will be exciting and full of diverse programs, initiatives and events.

Wishing you a diverse and prosperous semester!

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

— **Marché Fleming-Randle, Ph.D.**
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement
Wichita State University

A Shocker You Should Know: Tony Johnson

Posted: Thursday, August 17, 2017 Posted: 12:03:01 PM CT



This summer, Antonio “Tony” Johnson reminded us with one kind gesture that it really does take a village.

Tony, a Physical Plant employee who serves as the team leader for a Custodial Services pilot program in the Experiential Engineering Building (EEB), was working late in the afternoon on July 3, just before the holiday break, when a high school senior from Nebraska made an impromptu visit with his parents.

Tony could have told them the building was closed and left it at that. But he invited the student into the building and proceeded to give him a tour and introduce him to engineering student Thomas Nguyen, who also showed him around.

To Tony, going the extra mile wasn’t that big of a deal. He considers customer service to be part of his job.

“That’s just the type of guy I am,” he says. “I don’t feel like just a custodian. I like helping out. I think it’s a big plus for WSU when a person can be here and know they have caring people on this campus.”

Tony, who refers to the EEB as “my house,” says that’s the way he approaches everybody when they enter the building.

In fact, Tony thinks of himself as part of the WSU welcoming crew and says if he could do any other job here, he’d be an official tour guide for the EEB. Not only does he love the building and the amazing things that go on there, he says the staff is friendly and like family.

Tony, a North High graduate, has worked at WSU for four years. Previously, he spent 12 years with USD 259 as a custodial supervisor.

The oldest of four, he and his siblings had a strong influence from both grandmothers. Keeping the house clean was top priority.

“If it wasn’t clean the way they wanted it, we got a whipping and went back and cleaned it again,” he says.

To this day, Tony loves to keep things in top shape. He calls himself the Energizer Bunny and says he’ll often get off work and clean house or wash his car.

“That’s just always been me,” he says.

It’s that passion and attention to detail that make Tony such a valued member of the team, says Bobby Smith, Physical Plant executive director.

Tony exemplifies the kind of person Bobby hopes for in the Physical Plant.

“Tony always conducts himself in a professional manner, and his interaction with the prospective engineering student is reflective of how he goes about his business on a daily basis,” Bobby says.

“Tony is passionate about his work and WSU. He has taken ownership of the EEB, from a custodial services perspective. It’s his building, and he has high expectations for himself and the other two members of his team.”

Look for more in the future from Tony, Bobby says.

“As our Innovation Campus expands, so will Tony’s responsibilities,” he says. “He’s earned a larger role within the Physical Plant and on our campus. I’m certain WSU will continue to benefit from his efforts.”

To hear more about Tony’s story, go to <http://bit.ly/TonyEEB>.

Grant of the Month: Radiotherapy

Posted: Thursday, August 17, 2017 Posted: 12:04:10 PM CT



Eshan Salari, assistant professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering, received more than \$240,000 from the National Science Foundation for his collaborative research: Radiotherapy Planning for Real-Time Organ Motion Management.

Radiotherapy is one of the most effective and commonly used modalities for cancer treatment, which uses high-energy radiation to eradicate cancer cells. However, if unaccounted for, internal organ motion during radiation delivery may lead to underdosing of cancer cells or overdosing of normal tissue. This could potentially cause treatment failure or normal-tissue toxicity.

Organ motion is of particular concern in the treatment of lung and abdominal cancers, where breathing induces large tumor displacement and organ deformation.

A recent technological innovation is a new generation of radiotherapy systems equipped with on-board magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners providing a real-time high-contrast movie of the patient's anatomy during radiation delivery.

This offers the opportunity to devise a fundamentally new organ-motion management approach in which the radiotherapy plan actively learns and adapts to anatomical variation in real time. This research will develop the methods to enable use of real-time MRI visualization to control the progress of radiation delivery in order to correct for any dose discrepancy, thus allowing treatment plans to actively adjust to anatomical changes during irradiation.

If successful, the research will provide clinicians with real-time organ-motion management tools that have the potential to improve the accuracy and efficiency of radiation delivery in the presence of organ motion, leading to higher rates of disease control and fewer side effects for cancer patients.

Metric of the Month: Graduate research initiatives

Posted: Thursday, August 17, 2017 Posted: 12:04:28 PM CT

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, in consultation with University Academic Affairs and the college deans, has developed a university dashboard that intentionally gauges collective performance of WSU on representative meaningful metrics.

The highlighted metric for the month is graduate research initiatives.

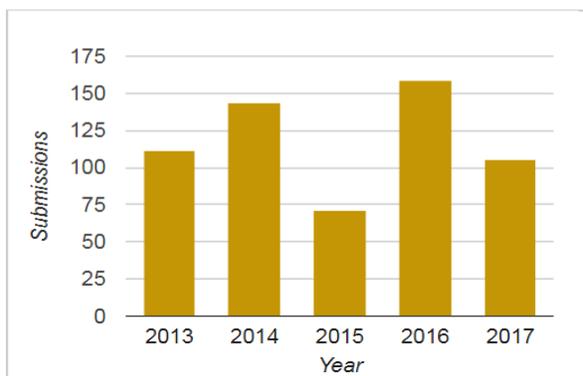
The Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects competition is a key showcase for the diversity of graduate education at WSU. It aligns with the university's vision in several ways.

- GRASP is interdisciplinary, with posters and presentations from all the college and many departments.
- Each student works with a faculty member, ensuring a connection between the research and scholarship that is taking place among faculty, and responds to an editorial board made up of faculty that ensures a professional level of quality, thus capitalizing on existing and emerging societal and economic trends.
- Judging takes place with a team that represents a range of disciplines, ensuring that each presenter has to convey their work to a no specialist audience, a key element of applied learning and scholarship and empowering students to create a campus culture and experience that meets their changing needs.
- The presentation of research in a public setting helps develop an essential set of social skills important in the workforce, contributing to our graduates being better at functioning in careers once they graduate/

See the graph below for details.

GRADUATE RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Total number of submissions for Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects (GRASP)



What I'm Reading: "This is the Way the College 'Bubble' Ends"

Posted: Thursday, August 17, 2017 Posted: 12:04:45 PM CT

The sticker price of American college has increased nearly 400 percent in the past 30 years, while median household income growth was relatively flat. Meanwhile, student debt has continued to rise.

What's going on?

The explanation is combination of weak demand, over-supply, a crackdown on for-profit colleges and, perhaps, a subtle shift in culture.



» [Read more of "This is the Way the College 'Bubble' Ends"](#)



President's Message: Enrollment efforts are beginning to succeed

Posted: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 Posted: 4:36:39 PM CT



This is an energizing time at the university. Thanks to the work of hundreds of faculty and staff members who have contributed to the Strategic Enrollment Management effort, we're beginning to experience success on multiple fronts.

As fall enrollment numbers released later this week will indicate, our efforts are bearing fruit in recruiting high school seniors, under-represented minorities, students from the I-35 corridor beyond Kansas and online learners. After we take some time to celebrate, our journey continues

with an additional focus on improving retention and degree completion.

We need the commitment of all faculty and staff in building positive connections with every person who visits, applies to or enrolls at Wichita State. The university's future depends on sharpening our performance at every point of contact.

If you were among the 160 faculty, staff or student participants in the recent round of focus groups arranged by Human Resources, you know we're embarked on an effort to create an enduring level of excellence in student-focused services delivered by all university offices.

We know that happy and committed faculty and staff are key to creating the quality education and atmosphere that will attract and retain students, so we're also working on how we treat each other.

As HR Director Judy Espinoza said: "We want to create a consistent experience for all who serve and are served by the university. We are creating a community of higher education (versus an institution) – one in which we will all be proud to be a part of."

Teri Hall joined the university in January as vice president for Student Affairs. She and her key reports, including Maureen Dasey-Morales, Kevin Konda and recently Aaron Austin, have been pursuing a vision of "connecting every student." Research tells us that the students who are most successful academically and persist to graduation are those who form bonds with others on campus.

Teri has selected a 27-member student advisory group with representatives from key student organizations as well as opinion leaders from key segments of the student population.

Enrollment success stories

There's both art and science involved in enrollment and retention efforts, so colleges and departments are putting more emphasis on listening to students, listening to the companies and organizations that hire them and on data collection and analysis.

We're seeing enrollment success stories like the one in the College of Education, where Dean Shirley Lefever and her faculty have listened to school systems and created a new program to help education paraprofessionals earn their degrees while continuing to earn a living.

The Workforce, Professional and Community Education Office, in collaboration with academic partners, has created a hit this fall with the badge program to make workforce training and for-credit short courses available online.

These are just a few of numerous efforts underway throughout the university.

A visitor to Morrison Hall last week was a business owner who regretted never completing college. He enrolled in the new BAA program in Media Arts and is taking 11 hours this semester. The program was brought into existence through faculty and staff collaboration in the

College of Fine Arts and Elliott School of Communication. He's a student we probably wouldn't have gotten without their initiative.

I encourage you talk with your colleagues about initiatives your part of the university community could undertake to make WSU more appealing to current and prospective students to help them to improve their lives and careers.

If you have a success story you'd like to share, please write to me, president@wichita.edu.

A Shocker You Should Know: Ken Wiseman

Posted: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 Posted: 4:36:55 PM CT



Ken Wiseman believes we are limited only by our own thoughts and dreams. That attitude fits perfectly with the work he does every day as facility manager at GoCreate.

Ken manages the vast array of textiles, woods, welding, 3D printing and metals equipment at GoCreate and trains the team of technicians and mentors on safety and equipment operations.

He's also a great cheerleader for GoCreate members, encouraging and guiding them as they turn their ideas into actual objects.

GoCreate, an 18,000-square-foot space inside the Experiential Engineering Building, is part manufacturing plant, part design studio and part garage workshop where members have access to sophisticated equipment and training, shared work spaces and a supportive community.

Ken's work at GoCreate started well before its April opening. Along with GoCreate Director Ty Masterson and NIAR Robotics and Automation Director Brian Brown, Ken identified, ordered, unpacked and set up all the equipment in a warehouse in the Kansas Coliseum while GoCreate prepared to open.

Identifying, setting up and training on additional equipment is an ongoing process as GoCreate continues to evolve.

“I really enjoy this concept of a makerspace, and it is so great to see everyone’s expression when they see this place,” he says. “This is such a wonderful concept to bring the equipment and software to those who normally would not have the chance to work with. If you can dream it, you can create it here.”

Ken says he relies heavily on his team. They thrive on being creative and having fun.

“I believe that a positive atmosphere and being on a positive team goes such a long way,” he says. “We keep raising the bar and listening to each other to keep the atmosphere safe.”

Prior to taking the job at GoCreate, Ken was a self-employed entrepreneur. He ran his own construction company and did custom work. Before that, he was some instrumentation / avionics lead at Bombardier Flight Test.

He took classes at Butler Community College and received job training in the military. A big believer in continuing education, Ken plans to finish his degree soon at WSU.

Outside of work, Ken is busy. Very busy. He has seven children, ranging from 8 to 28 years old, and has four grandsons with another one on the way.

“My family and my grandsons are a big part of my life,” he says. “I try to go to their activities as much as I can.”

Ken is a creator himself and loves working on cars and his house, as well as building things with his kids.

When he learned about the job at GoCreate, Ken was overwhelmed with the potential to help people, and it’s a position he continues to relish.

“I love so much about my job,” Ken says. “I love helping our members create things. I love learning new equipment and new software. And I enjoy the interaction with all the members and team.”



Diversity Update: Advancing the mission of WSU

Posted: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 Posted: 4:37:08 PM CT

The new school year is off to a great start and we would not be successful without the outstanding support of WSU students, faculty and staff. The new Division of Diversity and Community Engagement staff are doing a fantastic job, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the following TRIO/GEAR UP Program staff on their recent sponsored research awards:

- **Rhonda Hicks**, director
 - Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) – five-year grant renewal award
 - Upward Bound Foster Care Empowerment (UBFCE) – new-five-year grant award
- **Shukura Bakari-Cozart**, director, Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) – five-year grant renewal
- **Kaye Monk-Morgan**, Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) – five-year grant renewal award
- **LaWanda Holt-Fields**, McNair Scholars Program, five-year grant renewal award

Under the leadership of Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for nontraditional students for Diversity and Community Engagement, these programs continue to thrive and expand in support of the WSU community. These programs are critical to the community and vital to recruitment and retention efforts on campus.

As this new division continues to unfold, we encourage students, faculty and staff to participate in upcoming forums, events and community dialogues. Recently, the Public Policy and Management Center hosted the first Engage WSU: “A Day of Public Service Sharing” event.

The purpose of Engage WSU was to share applied learning experiences, encourage dialogue between WSU and community stakeholders and highlight issues and solutions to challenges that impact the everyday lives of citizens. This division is here to serve and we look forward to advancing the mission of this great university.

*We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry,
and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry
are equal in value no matter what their color.*
-Maya Angelou

— **Marché Fleming-Randle, Ph.D.**
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement
Wichita State University

Grant of the Month: NSF chemistry grants

Posted: Monday, September 25, 2017 Posted: 1:20:59 PM CT



Assistant Chemistry Professor Katie Mitchell-Koch has received two prestigious grants totaling nearly \$545,000.

Both grants were awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

One of the research projects – \$368,000 for “Unraveling Connections Among Biomolecular Structure, Interfacial Solvent Dynamics and Conformational Dynamics” – focuses on the movement of solvent molecules around enzymes.

Enzymes are proteins that catalyze chemical reactions. Enzymatic catalysis depends on protein motion, which is facilitated by motion of solvation layers at the protein interface.

Working with Virginia Tech Professor Vinh Nguyen, the knowledge gained in the research will provide fundamental insight into biomolecular function and the link between solvation environment and enzyme catalysis. That could result in lower energy costs and more efficient production of fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

The research also provides valuable opportunities and resources for interdisciplinary training and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students.

Mitchell-Koch and Nguyen have a strong track record of training undergraduate and graduate students, including those from underrepresented groups in STEM, and their outreach efforts include middle school and high school students.

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Mitchell-Koch was also one of 30 researchers in the United States to receive funding in September from the NSF's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

She was awarded \$176,284 for her research at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) with collaborator Kami Hull, a professor in the UIUC School of Chemical Sciences.

The work focuses on characterization of chemical syntheses carried out by rhodium and iridium catalysts. The catalytic reactions are used to create complex molecular architectures, like those in drug candidates and pharmaceuticals.

Mitchell-Koch uses computational chemistry to understand reaction mechanisms to enable new reactions or fine-tune processes for more efficient chemistry.

The grant will enable the two research groups to work side-by-side for close collaboration between theory and experiment, and Mitchell-Koch will take part in training and resources available at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at UIUC.

She and Hull will also be active with the Women Chemists Committee and the Bonding with Chemistry Camp for Girls.

Leadership for women in STEM will be modeled at Wichita State as well, including outreach through the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference for middle school girls.

Metric of the Month: Applied learning

Posted: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 Posted: 4:37:36 PM CT

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, in consultation with University Academic Affairs and the college deans, has developed a university dashboard that intentionally gauges collective performance of WSU on representative meaningful metrics.

The highlighted metric for the month is applied learning.

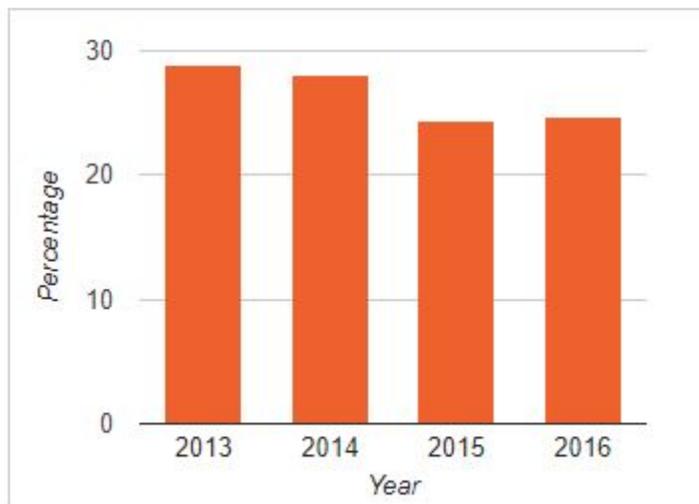
Applied learning is critical to successful implementation of the university's strategic plan as it applies to WSU's vision, mission and the goal of guaranteeing an applied learning or research experience for every student.

Graduates with applied learning experiences take less time and training to become productive in initial employment, giving them a competitive advantage when seeking employment.

Click on the graph below to see more information.

APPLIED LEARNING Required, Percentage

Percent of graduating students participating in applied learning courses as a graduation requirement



What I'm Reading: 'Capturing the Next Economy'

Posted: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 Posted: 4:37:46 PM CT



Pittsburgh, like Wichita, is a once-thriving industrial city now increasingly dependent on higher education and research to move it forward. There are lessons for us in [this Brookings report](#).



President's Message: WSU's role in the changing environment of higher education

Posted: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Posted: 4:08:25 PM CT

Higher education is in a time of change not experienced since the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th. Following passage of the Morrill Act during the Civil War and the explosion of new inventions during the late 19th century industrialization, higher education was metamorphosed.

The number of universities expanded dramatically; new disciplines, professions and colleges were added at prodigious rates; and [Cardinal Newman's idea](#) that education was its own reward and his often-misunderstood notions of a "liberal education" were spreading widely in Europe and the United States.

This also was the era in which there was widespread adoption of specialized faculties housed in departments; research became the partner of teaching; and the inclusion of vocational subjects became common in universities.

Kansas State University was founded in 1863; the University of Kansas in 1865; and Wichita State in 1895. These three major research universities have figured prominently in the state's development and are individually and collectively important drivers of its future.

[The basic structure of the modern university as we know it primarily developed in the 20-year period between 1890 and 1910.](#) So, the basic structure and functions of the traditional American university is primarily a product of the Industrial Revolution. To be sure, it has deep roots back to the University of Bologna and the University of Paris, but the modern university is an invention of the industrialization.

This long-serving but increasingly outdated idea of a university reflects in its curricula and structure both the massive growth of knowledge and the equally massive growth and complexity of the economy coupled with enormous social change. The modern university is an invention that is socially, politically and economically situated within its historical context.

A part of this context that is often not discussed is that higher education as it evolved was for the few and not the many. Women had difficulty being admitted to some universities and the percentage of the population with four-year college degrees was very small. By 1940, only 6 percent of men and 4 percent of women held [four-year degrees](#) and most Americans over age 25 had an eighth-grade education or less.

In the South, higher education was segregated with African-Americans being excluded from enrolling in white institutions, and even in the North, it was not unusual for universities to have racial or religious quotas. But, universities continued to evolve both because of the social, economic and political forces of society and because of major court decisions that outlawed many discriminatory practices. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics:

The 20th century has been a period of dynamic growth for higher education institutions. Colleges have evolved from institutions largely limited to the social elite to much more egalitarian institutions attended today by [nearly two out of three high school graduates](#).

During the later years of the 20th century, higher education continued to evolve, grow and change, but its basic industrial structure remained intact. Higher education managed most changes through incremental small alterations that did not upset its industrially derived order. But, over time, the pressures to change have mounted and the situation within which traditional higher education is operating is very different.

We are facing the classic “innovator’s dilemma,” defined by Clayton Christensen in his 1997 book that describes how new competitors, often through use of market segmentation strategies, pricing and technology, gain market share and eventually disrupt and topple established industry leaders. Christensen noted in a 2016 interview in Forbes that competition is most likely to disrupt an industry where the consumers of that industry are dissatisfied with the product or outcome.

This sounds a great deal like higher education as it exists today. Employers are not on average satisfied with graduates; and in a recent survey of American adults, [only one in four felt that higher education was functioning well](#). And, as clearly articulated by the Lumina Foundation, there are increasing calls for a major redesign of higher education:

Indeed, fundamental redesign is a must — because the traditional higher-ed model is simply insufficient to our needs as a society. That’s not a criticism of any institution, individual or mindset. The fact is, the current system lacks the capacity and the flexibility to properly serve the millions of additional students who must be served if we are to [meet the nation’s attainment goals](#).

So, the national scene for higher education is at best choppy and there are gathering winds that will force change. How higher education responds to this environment will in large measure determine its future. As with many industry leaders of the past, we can continue to offer our traditional services to our core market and hope that their current level of dissatisfaction

dissipates, or we can maintain the status quo and delay responding until we are required to change by external forces beyond our control.

The stay-the-course strategy, while emotionally satisfying in the short-run, is dangerous in the current and likely future environment of higher education. The hold-out-as-long-as-we-can strategy buys enough time for some of us to complete our careers, but it doesn't bode well for the future of WSU.

I believe the best approach, the one we are pursuing, is to protect the core teaching-research-service mission of higher education while vigorously identifying and addressing the needs of our students, community, state and economy.

I've been thinking about these issues as I work with colleagues throughout the university and Kansas Board of Regents to determine our best responses to the changing environment for higher education, especially as it applies to WSU as an urban-located, public research university with high ideals and aspirations.

The [Regents Foresight 2020](#) The KBOR strategic plan has core goals that define the framework within which all regents' institutions must operate.

Goal 1: Increase Higher Education Attainment Among Kansans

Goal 2: Improve Alignment of the State's Higher Education System with the Needs of the Economy

Goal 3: Ensure State University Excellence

It's in the context of those goals that WSU is moving forward.

Our most effective response mechanisms over the past five years have included the development and implementation of:

- The Strategic Plan Vision, Mission, Values and Goals.
- Innovation Campus.
- Strategic Enrollment Management, including One Stop and the 1-35 Corridor Recruitment Strategy.
- Affiliation with Wichita Area Technical College to create the coming Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology.
- Office of Diversity and Community Engagement.

While I work through my own thoughts on next steps in a lengthy research paper, I'd invite your reactions to three broad initiatives I believe we need to pursue to help further reshape the

university in the coming years to meet KBOR's and the university's goals. I have been discussing each of these with on-campus constituencies and the Regents:

1. Micro-credentials and certificates

Students and employers demand both faster knowledge acquisition and more specialized just-in-time training than what traditional degrees and certificates offer. In response, colleges and universities are adopting micro-credentials as a way to “signal competencies, skills and connected networks through a growing system of emphasizing evidence-rich credentials.” Within this framework, students demonstrate competencies through a variety of means: electronic portfolios that they share with potential employers, digital badges that they display on social media sites like Facebook or LinkedIn, or by indicating completion of certifications, or “mini” or “nano” degrees on their resumes and CVs.

2. Expansion of new applied learning models

Although Wichita State University has made applied learning experiences available to students for decades, the concept gained substantially more importance when the institution's strategic plan vision of applied learning and research was approved both on campus and by KBOR. The single most important defining characteristic of the institutional strategy is the centrality of applied learning.

I see applied learning being redefined and reconceived in new ways around the traditional vocabulary of apprenticeships and co-op. Over the next two years, WSU will work to reorganize and strengthen its ability to offer both apprenticeships and co-op programs. While it is well understood that these are only two types of applied learning, they are increasingly important and can become both a point of distinction for student recruitment and a means to enhance the economic capacity of central Kansas.

3. Student retention to graduation

We all know that retention is best at selective universities drawing academically prepared students from highly educated families. But that's not our situation.

What has been missing at WSU is a strategic approach to retention; that approach is being developed and will result in a strategic retention plan. To be effective, such a plan needs to be:

- **Holistic.** It needs to address students' educational backgrounds as well as their social and self-efficacy needs. This means that it needs to be institutional and not focused only on one division.
- **Granular.** There is no “one size fits all” approach to retention so the plan has to focus on the needs of sub-groups of students.
- **Systematic** and organized. It must be implemented across the institution and be a high priority for people of all divisions who might contact students formally or informally.

- **Assessed.** Simply “doing things” is not effective. There must be a strong a plan for assessment that is rigorously applied to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of outcomes of retention interventions.
- **Iterative.** As with all new approaches to enhancing the student experience, initial efforts will not be perfect and implementers have to take a “continuous improvement” approach to retention programming. Some initiatives will work well the first time, others will need to be “tweaked,” and some may need to be totally redesigned. In a continuous improvement model, all of these are legitimate outcomes since the real goal of the program is to enhance the student’s experience in such a way that that student graduates.

In conclusion, we have significant work ahead. If we do it well, good results will follow. I encourage you to merge these preliminary thoughts with your own best ideas and let me know how you think we can keep producing better results for our student, community and state. I appreciate all you do to move the university forward. Write to me, president@wichita.edu.

A Shocker You Should Know: Jessica Provines

Posted: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Posted: 4:08:45 PM CT



Jessica Provines experienced quite the change when she returned to WSU from maternity leave this summer. After three months at home with her newborn daughter, Cleo, Provines came back as director of the Counseling and Testing Center, taking over for Maureen Dasey-Morales, who had been named associate vice president for Student Affairs.

Provines describes that period of time as “discombobulating” as she got used to being back at work in a new, more pressure-filled job. But it was a position she was well prepared for after 10 years at the center, most recently as associate director.

“I’m adjusting – settling in and enjoying my new role,” Provines says.

Along with test-taking services, the Counseling and Testing Center helps members of the WSU community who are experiencing difficulties. Services include individual, couples or group and family therapy.

A few months in, she's looking toward the center's future, which includes partial restructuring of some key positions and making progress toward her longtime goal of developing a peer educator program aimed at social sciences students.

She has also helped lead the way in securing a federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Garrett Lee Smith suicide prevention grant, which has brought increased suicide prevention awareness to campus.

In addition to leadership responsibilities, Provines provides counseling services for up to 10 students a week.

She began at Wichita State in 1998, when she transferred her sophomore year from the University of Kansas to pursue her degree in psychology with a minor in sociology.

She earned her master's in the Community Clinical Psychology Program and her doctorate in community clinical psychology.

Fun fact: Jessica and her husband used to perform at area parties. She sang while he accompanied her with the guitar.

As a student, Provines was involved in campus life and with her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta. Her senior year, she co-directed the winning 1940s-themed Hippodrome skit -- in which she won the best actress award -- alongside her future husband, Brandon, a 2002 integrated marketing and communication alumnus.

Provines was also involved in undergraduate and graduate research, gaining valuable experience from faculty including Dasey-Morales, Darwin Dorr and the late James Snyder.

After earning her doctorate, she worked for a year at Prairie View as an outpatient therapist, but returned to WSU when a staff psychologist position opened up in the Counseling and Testing Center. She's been here ever since.

"I feel like coming to Wichita State as a student was one of the best things that happened to me," she says.

As most parents know, there isn't a lot of free time with small children, and Provines is no exception. Along with Cleo, who is now 6 months old, Provines and Brandon have Ruby, 4, and Opal, 3.

They spend a lot of time with their extended family, as well, which includes 12 nieces and nephews.

Diversity Update: New opportunities in Diversity and Community Engagement

Posted: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Posted: 4:08:59 PM CT



The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement staff continue to identify new partnerships and explore opportunities to expand the reach and influence of the university.

As a university, we are making tremendous progress and appreciate the input received from faculty, staff and students throughout the process.

In this new division, we strive to achieve excellence, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our staff on the following successes:

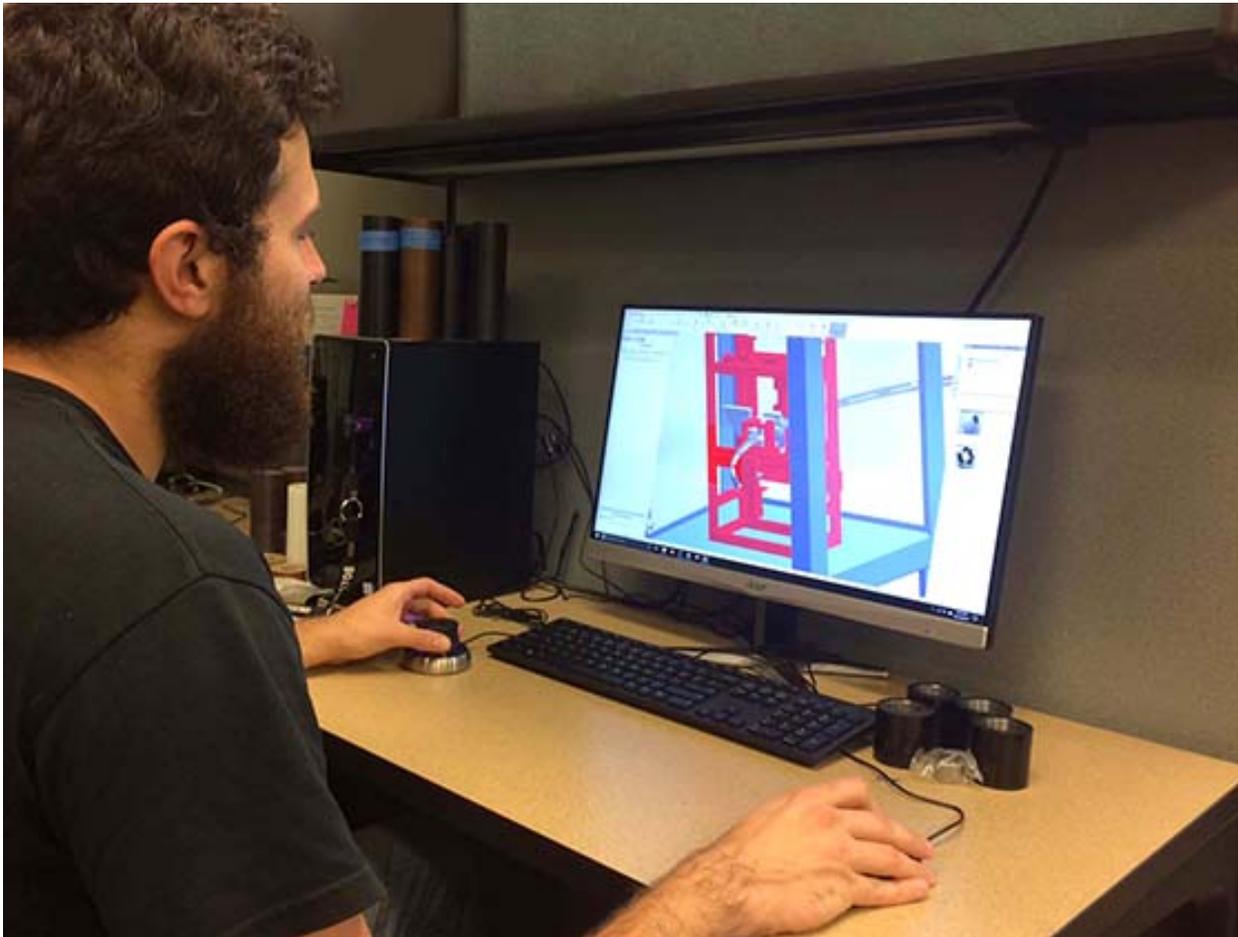
- President's Diversity Council marketing and communication committee for hosting the second annual DiverseCity week in partnership with CutH8 Wichita State. The week full of activities were a success.

- Riccardo Harris, executive director of Wichita State GEAR UP, for his efforts related to the two new seven-year GEAR UP Partnership awards that have been funded through the Department of Education. (Above photo, taken at the announcement.)
- The Public Policy and Management Center in collaboration with the Office of Community Engagement and Opportunity released the Shocker Neighborhood Project survey results that identify community priorities for further exploration. This survey was a tremendous success, reaching almost 400 residents.
- The upcoming rededication of Grace Wilkie Hall in honor of Grace Wilkie, who became Fairmount College's dean of women in 1921 and continued in that capacity through the college's transition to the Municipal University of Wichita. She retired in 1953. The rededication will include a ceremony and open house from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8.
- Also on Nov. 8, we will honor our veterans with a flag rededication. There will be additional details available through Strategic Communications, and we look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

— Dr. Marchè Fleming-Randle
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement

Grant of the Month: Fairmount Technologies gets \$1 million defense contract

Posted: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Posted: 4:09:42 PM CT



Fairmount Technologies, located on the Wichita State University campus, received a new contract with the Department of Defense to further develop its portfolio of manufacturing technologies for discrete part manufacturing.

The \$1 million contract is for building a prototype for the machining concept that was proven through a successful phase I Small Business Innovation Research contract to improve machining of long, complex-shaped parts used in aircraft manufacturing.

It's a machining project that uses advanced sensing technologies to correct the machining path of the tool in real-time. The goal is to reduce loss of materials due to machining failure, set-up cost and lead time for manufacturing multiple parts or one-off spares.

“The pool of excellent employees who are current or former WSU students is a valuable asset to Fairmount Technologies.”

Fairmount Technologies was founded in 2008 by Vis Madhavan, professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering at WSU, and is located in Beggs Hall.

Madhavan is one of the inventors of the Stretch Roll Forming process, a manufacturing innovation with the potential to revolutionize the process of bending extrusions into components.

This process allows parts to be produced rapidly using computer numerical control programs instead of part specific dies, at lower production and environmental cost, with improved quality and increased accuracy.

Mahdi Kashani, general manager at Fairmount Technologies, attributes much of the company's success to its WSU location.

"The pool of excellent employees who are current or former WSU students is a valuable asset to Fairmount Technologies," said Kashani, who received his own Ph.D. from WSU. "It delivers motivated and skilled people that makes our success possible."

The company currently employs 13 people, including three WSU graduates and five WSU student interns.

Fairmount Technologies is certified to design and manufacture components and assemblies for the aerospace and defense industries. More information can be found at www.fairmounttech.com.

Metric of the Month: Undergraduate research initiatives

Posted: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Posted: 4:09:16 PM CT

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, in consultation with University Academic Affairs and the college deans, has developed a university dashboard that intentionally gauges collective performance of WSU on representative meaningful metrics.

The highlighted metric for the month is undergraduate research initiatives.

Overall university support for fostering an environment and campus culture conducive to collaborative and interdisciplinary research and creative activity at the undergraduate level is critical to the participation of students in undergraduate research. The Undergraduate Research in Creative Activity Forum (URCAF) provides an annual opportunity for undergraduate students at Wichita State University to present their scholarly and creative activity to a faculty, student and community audience.

A higher number of URCAF submissions reflects growing undergraduate interest in seeking research and creative opportunities and collaborating with faculty on those activities. This measure is related to strategic goals, including goals associated with guaranteeing applied learning and research experiences for students, pioneering interdisciplinary curricula, capitalizing on existing and emerging societal and economic trends, accelerating the discovery, creation and transfer of new knowledge and empowering students to create a campus culture and experience that meets their changing needs.

Click on the photo below for more information.



What I'm Reading: 'The oversized impact of downtown universities'

Posted: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 Posted: 4:09:28 PM CT



The ideas generated at U.S. research universities are often the catalysts for tomorrow's most innovative and competitive firms. But academic research doesn't translate into products and companies without planning and effort. Success is driven by the strategic interplay between universities, firms, entrepreneurs, research labs and independent inventors who draw strength from each other in virtuous cycles of innovation.

Research shows that these interactions are most productive when they occur in geographically dense clusters. Innovation districts — employment hubs in the cores of cities that co-locate research, entrepreneurs, housing and mixed-use amenities — are perhaps the most recent and tangible example of innovation clusters.

» [Read more in "Hidden in plain sight: The oversized impact of downtown universities."](#)



President's Message: High-impact initiatives in 2018

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:37:01 PM CT



The beautiful and imposing antique bookcase built for the first president of Fairmount College sits by the top of the stairs, near my office in Morrison Hall. It's a daily reminder that we stand on the shoulders of President Nathan Morrison and all those, including loyal and active alumni, who have help shape the university we love.

I'm fortunate to have met the presidents who preceded me, going back to 1949 – Corbin, Lindquist, Ahlberg, Armstrong, Hughes and Beggs. I sit at President Emory Lindquist's desk, to take inspiration from his leadership in broadening the local impact of the university while bringing it into the state system.

In his 1963 convocation address, Lindquist said: "Our university has the rich sense of belonging to the past and the exciting feeling that the future is heavy with the promise of better things."

That's the feeling I have as we enter 2018. You've already heard a lot about Innovation Campus and the "Shock the World" capital campaign, so, briefly, here are five other high-impact initiatives to watch in the new year:

- Our formal affiliation with Wichita Area Technical College will begin July 1 under its new name, WSU Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology. WSU faculty and staff have been working with President Sheree Utash and her team on joint programs and facilities to serve students and the workforce needs of Kansas industries.
- We're strongly focused on student recruitment and retention. Part of that is improving the quality of student life through means such as improving housing options and recreation and wellness facilities. We're also emphasizing high-potential growth segments, such as first-generation students and those from the I-35 corridor in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Based on application trends, we expect the fall 2018 freshman class to be our largest ever, for the third year in a row.
- The university has been introducing academic programs and approaches to fit the needs of students and industries. Examples include expanded online degrees and badges, plus new degrees in education (Teacher Apprentice Program), engineering (engineering technology with specialized tracks in civil engineering, cybersecurity, management and mechatronics); media arts (with specialized tracks in animation, audio production, filmmaking and game design); plus, MA in Innovation Design. Upcoming: global supply chain management and homeland security. Our top priority for new state funding is a program in material and chemicals engineering.
- Funded research and related applied learning opportunities are expanding. Our externally funded research hit an all-time high of \$90 million in 2017. One intriguing new contract is with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center to support a two-year, \$1.9 million effort focused on fostering new research and development collaborations to advance military technology and move it more quickly into the hands of Army users.
- As part of our effort to attract, retain and develop the best students, faculty and staff, we created a new office of Diversity and Community Engagement, led by Vice President Marchè Fleming-Randle. I also agreed to become chair of the Urban League, to help with

workforce development and build bridges to residents of neighborhoods near the university.

What other high-impact initiatives do you think we should be working on? Please write to me, president@wichita.edu.

Diversity Update: Encouraging equity and inclusiveness

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:53:58 PM CT

Greetings Shocker Nation!

The fall semester has been full of exciting activities, and I am grateful for all of the hard work of the students, staff, faculty and community partners that have worked together to integrate the new division on campus.

As faculty and staff, we must continue to explore the ever-changing demographics and identify ways to proactively engage the community. Wichita State University is filled with promise and believes that significant accomplishments will be achieved as we expand strategic partnerships.

The President's Diversity Council is on the move and will be in full force in 2018. Diversity is important to faculty, staff, students and community

I would like to congratulate the Public Policy and Management staff on receiving a three-year extension to provide professional development for both the city clerks and municipal finance officers and Kansas Museum Associations. I would like to thank Misty Bruckner, Lisa Dodson, Paula Downs, Morgan Barnes and Kayla Vix for providing outstanding public service to support the needs of the community. Their work embodies the spirit and history of Wichita State to cultivate, sustain and advance community partnerships for the greater good.

As we promote the greater good, we cultivate an environment that encourages equity and an inclusive campus.

Thank you for helping us begin our journey as a new division, and we look forward to sharing many more highlights in the new year!

*"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."
-Maya Angelou*

Happy Holidays.



— Dr. Marchè Fleming-Randle
Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement

Grant of the Month: U.S. Army award will provide applied learning opportunities

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:54:44 PM CT



Wichita State University has signed a Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) to support a two-year, \$1.9 million effort focused on fostering new research and development collaborations to advance military technology and move it more quickly into the hands of Army users.

This PIA initiative will be managed through a new FirePoint Innovations Center that will be located on Wichita State's Innovation Campus.

FirePoint will work closely with AMRDEC scientists and engineers to expand engagement and collaboration in future vertical lift technologies with industry, universities and other Department of Defense (DoD) researchers.

» [Read full story below:](#)

U.S. Army award will provide applied learning opportunities for students

Tuesday, October 31, 2017

- **WSU has signed a partnership with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center.**
 - **The initiative will be managed through a new FirePoint Innovations Center located on WSU's Innovation Campus.**
 - [Learn more about FirePoint.](#)
-

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This PIA initiative will be managed through a new FirePoint Innovations Center that will be located on Wichita State's Innovation Campus.

FirePoint will work closely with AMRDEC scientists and engineers to expand engagement and collaboration in future vertical lift technologies with industry, universities and other Department of Defense (DoD) researchers.

These new collaborations will assist AMRDEC to address technology gaps and enhance its ability to develop and deliver new capabilities that will continue to provide a competitive advantage to the nation's warfighters.

“The collaboration will ... provide outstanding applied learning opportunities for our students.”

–John Tomblin

FirePoint will be led by executive director Peter Perna and technical director Paul Jonas. Perna has more than 30 years of experience in technology transfer and commercialization. Jonas also serves as director of technology development and special programs for WSU's National Institute for Aviation Research. The center will initially hire two student assistants. Additional existing Wichita State personnel will assist with administrative duties.

FirePoint will leverage the experience and competencies of Wichita State and the Wichita community, especially the National Institute for Aviation Research, College of Engineering and local aviation industry.

“AMRDEC’s mission is vital to the strength of the nation’s defense, and we’re honored to have this opportunity to work closely with them,” said John Tomblin, WSU vice president for research and technology transfer. “The collaboration will expand WSU’s role in DoD research and development activities and will provide outstanding applied learning opportunities for our students – synchronizing with the university’s vision, mission and goals.”

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center provides increased responsiveness to the nation's warfighters through aviation and missile capabilities and life cycle engineering solutions.

“Partnerships between our nation’s universities and the Department of Defense strengthen our national security, and direct access to Wichita State University enhances the department’s ability to rapidly respond to mission requirements,” said Senator Jerry Moran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies. “The Army's decision to partner with Wichita State University to improve our nation’s aviation and aerospace defenses exemplifies the quality of the university's research and development capabilities. This partnership creates new opportunities for Kansans and the Wichita community.”

To learn more about FirePoint Innovations, visit gofirepoint.org.

What I'm Reading: 'Redesigning higher education with the student at the center'

Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:56:06 PM CT



A common pitfall in higher education when faced with the need to change is falling back on tried and true methods of overcoming obstacles.

But the pressures facing higher education demand a different way of thinking – incremental change in the short term alongside revolutionary change in the longer term.

This ability to continually tweak current offerings while encouraging radically different approaches to educating students in the future is the idea behind Portland State University's reTHINK PSU. The campuswide effort engages faculty, staff and students in identifying problems and designing solutions.

[» Read the full article.](#)

Metric of the Month: Undergraduate research initiatives

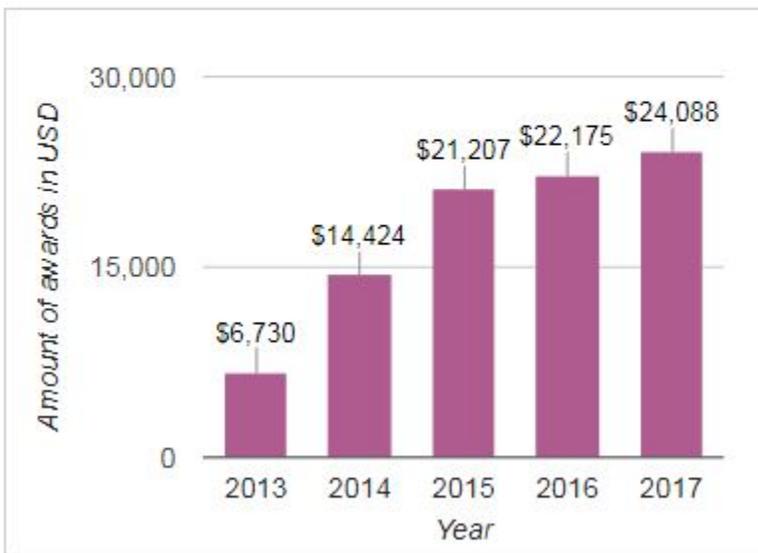
Posted: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 Posted: 1:55:52 PM CT

The highlighted metric of the month is undergraduate research awards. Undergraduates from all disciplines are encouraged to participate in research and creative projects in collaboration with WSU faculty. To foster undergraduate research, the Dorothy and Bill Cohen Honors College awards undergraduate student research grants. A higher number of awards reflect growing undergraduate interest in seeking research and creative opportunities and collaborating with faculty on those activities.

Click on the image below for more information.

UNDERGRAD RESEARCH AWARDS - Amount

Value of awards





President's Message: Meeting the need for prepared STEM workers

Posted: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 Posted: 1:37:01 PM CT



I hope the new semester is starting well for you.

One high priority focus for the university in 2018 is meeting the growing need for academically and technologically prepared workers in STEM fields. This requires a listening-intensive, outside-in model of curriculum development that anticipates and quickly responds to the needs of the labor market.

Wichita State and our partners at Wichita Area Technical College are enhancing STEM education through extended apprenticeship and internship programs. This model's usefulness isn't limited to STEM fields, but I'll keep the focus there in this message and count on you to think about how it may apply in your area of expertise.

Our approach to applied education is part of an overarching strategy to position WSU as a modern American university dedicated to the highest quality of applied learning and research to enhance economic competitiveness and the quality of life in our service area and state.

Developing and implementing this model is critical to our part of the country. Wichita has the third highest concentration of engineers in its workforce of all metropolitan areas in the United States — following only Silicon Valley and Houston, and we are more dependent on advanced manufacturing exports and trade than nearly any other metropolitan area in the U.S.

Over the past several decades, research universities, especially in urban areas, have gained center stage as drivers of American competitiveness. At WSU, we take that very seriously. According to the latest National Science Foundation data, for universities doing a significant amount of engineering R&D, WSU is second in the nation in the percent of engineering research and development funding provided by industry. And in the critical areas of aviation structures and materials, WSU receives more funding from industry than any other university by an order of magnitude.

The emphasis on industry-sponsored applied R&D gives the university the opportunity to employ undergraduate students, especially in several branches of engineering, in jobs directly related to their fields of study working under the mentorship of some of the finest aeronautical structural and materials engineers in the country. When they finish their education, they have substantial real-work experience on major projects of interest to U.S. industry and the military.

We have used the lessons learned from this work to reach out to business and industry in the greater Wichita region and create and implement a process called the “Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth” or BREG. Under BREG, the university asked business leaders and job creators to define the core competencies that would increase their ability to compete globally. We then analyzed their responses and are continuing to develop programs, training, apprenticeships, new approaches to micro-credentials and certificates, designed to meet the needs of these critical employers, especially advanced manufacturers.

One of the most pressing problems that we heard across industries with regard to workforce availability and industrial competitiveness was that, on average, newly graduated engineers took two additional years of training on the job before they could contribute to their companies’ bottom lines.

In response, we created and tested an extended apprenticeship model with one of the advanced manufacturers in the community. Using undergraduate students, we were able to digitize the plans for their most important product with an accuracy, speed and cost not matched by their Asian outsourced engineers.

Moreover, because of the quality of the work and the ability of the students to work with their existing technical staff, even though they were not intending to hire, they offered jobs to 35 percent

of the students, and 83 percent of the students in the program found employment within the regional labor market. The remainder found immediate employment outside the regional area or entered graduate school.

Most importantly, the company estimated that the apprenticeship model reduced the engineer's time to contribute to profitability from two years to less than six months.

One of the most important lessons for the university is that the quality and availability of a well-educated STEM workforce coupled with high-level applied R&D in an environment that is focused on innovation and entrepreneurship can help drive competitiveness and economic viability not just on America's coasts, but in the heartland as well.

We are building on these lessons to develop Innovation Campus as an urban innovation district based on the emerging needs of advanced manufacturing and global trade. To date, WSU has been able to attract the following key industries to campus:

- Airbus' North American engineering headquarters.
- Dassault Systemes North American center of excellence. This is a French company that makes the most widely used design software in aviation.
- Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence has created the most advanced three-dimensional inspection system in the country, and possibly the world, on our campus

In all three cases, it is the availability of well-educated STEM students, our emphasis on applied research and our emerging apprenticeship and internship models that are driving their interest.

As you know, WSU is completing its affiliation and integration with Wichita Area Technical College. On July 1, WATC becomes the WSU Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology. Informally, it will be called Wichita Tech.

This affiliation is specifically designed to increase workforce competitiveness especially in advanced manufacturing, to open new approaches to integrated traditional and technical education, and enlarge the capacities of the region into new areas of STEM expertise, especially around data analytics, cyber security and advanced materials associated with advanced manufacturing.

To summarize the lessons learned so far: well-designed apprenticeship and extended internships under the guidance of professional mentors can make a major difference in the quality of the student's education and the competitiveness of the region's economy.

The programs work best when they are the result of careful listening and ongoing interaction with the private sector and when they are experienced within an educational environment characterized by applied R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship focused on the future. We believe at WSU that we are making that future.

I'm interested in your reactions and especially in learning about good results you've had with applied learning apprenticeship and extended internship models in non-STEM fields.

Write to me, president@wichita.edu.

SEM Check-In: Transfer students

Posted: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 Posted: 4:55:05 PM CT

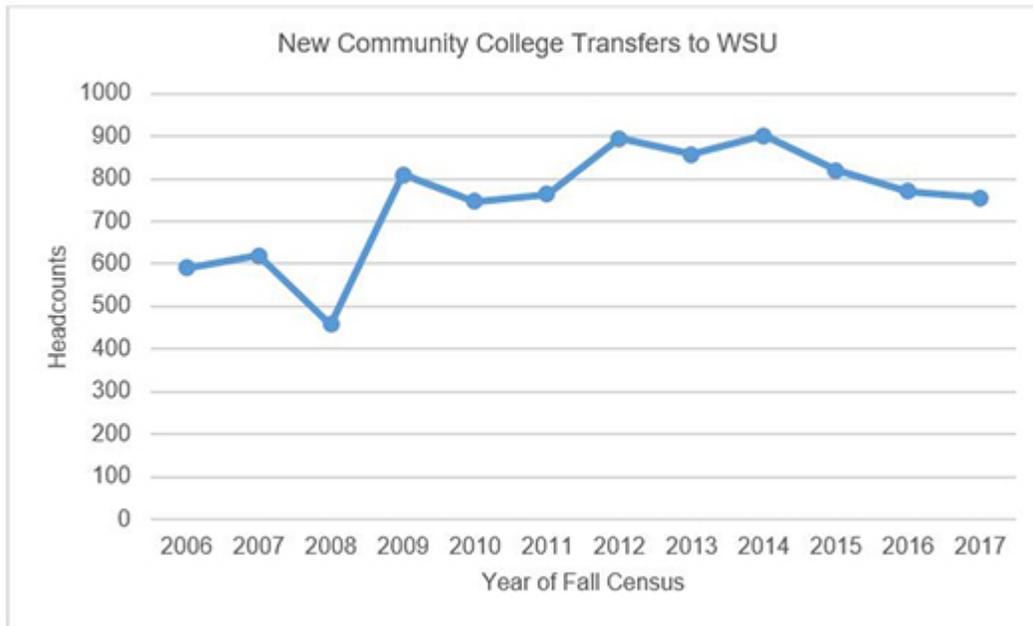


In conjunction with the university's Strategic Planning process, WSU has developed a [Strategic Enrollment Management](#) (SEM) plan for growth over the next three years. To stay informed on the progress toward our goals, we will provide regular updates on the status of one of the goals and share information for you to assist us in moving the goal forward.

This month, we'll focus on: Goal 8 – Increase enrollment of new fall degree-seeking transfer students by 11 percent yearly through fall 2020.

Wichita State is the largest transfer destination in the state among community college students. Every fall we have approximately 1,200 new degree-seeking students transfer to WSU, of which approximately 800 are from community colleges. Students transferring from Butler, Hutchinson and Cowley community colleges make the largest share of those transfer students.

Transfer students are a very important group of students, and we want to do everything we can to ease their transition to the university. Although we're tops in the state, our enrollment among this group has actually been flat recently, largely because of decreasing enrollment among community colleges. In fact, the Kansas community college system was down more than 1,500 students during fall 2017.



So what are we doing to help?

One of the main things that prevents community college students from transferring to WSU is not knowing the answer to the following questions:

1. How will my courses transfer?
2. How long is it going to take to finish a degree at WSU?
3. How much is it going to cost?

We want to help with this and are happy to announce the launch of a gateway – www.wichita.edu/transfergateway – that prospective community college students (or any other student considering a transfer to WSU) can go to get the answers to these questions.

What can you do?

Encourage prospective transfer students to visit our website at www.wichita.edu/transfertowsu where they will find a link to the gateway. While using the gateway, they will be able to send a question to a transfer specialist or request evaluation of a transfer course.

Thank you for all that you do to support SEM. It takes all of us to make sure current and prospective students have a great experience at WSU.

Thoughts or questions? Write to Rick Muma, interim provost, richard.muma@wichita.edu.

Diversity Update: Social and political challenges

Posted: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 Posted: 4:53:59 PM CT

Welcome back! I hope you had a great holiday and are ready to start your new semester.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination, his voice and message continue to resonate as we address social and political challenges. I am grateful to Dr. King for laying the foundation for the work of the Division for Diversity and Community Engagement, and the current challenges underscore the importance of this work now more than ever.

Dr. King's call for social justice was irrespective of race, creed, religion and socioeconomic status to ensure the promise of fairness and equity for all citizens.



One of the many wonderful opportunities within the WSU community includes the platform to encourage and exchange ideas with others. As we celebrate the legacy of Dr. King, I encourage each of you to consider the following as we strive to advance our community:

- Engage in dialogues that are not only important to you but to others in your community.
- Explore the differing sides of social challenges to ensure we have an informed citizenry.
- Facilitate opportunities that create understanding and build a better community for the future.

Lastly, I will be teaching a course this semester on the life, legacy and lessons of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and believe this is a timely opportunity for students, faculty, staff and community members to learn and reaffirm the values, beliefs and commitment of his legacy to the university and the greater community.

Within the WSU community, our commitment is unwavering to explore and expand the number of opportunities for all who support these values, and I look forward to working with each of you this semester as we move forward.

The President's Diversity Council is on the move this semester, looking for opportunities to engage in town halls, focus groups and dialogue.

"The right time to do what is right is right now." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle
Vice President Diversity and Community Engagement

A Shocker You Should Know: Kaye Monk-Morgan

Posted: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 Posted: 4:51:40 PM CT

Kaye Monk-Morgan believes that a college education can change the entire financial and social trajectory of a person's family. That's why she has worked tirelessly as director of WSU's TRIO Upward Bound Math Science Center the past 20 years, guiding hundreds of low-income, first-generation students toward their future.

It's her time with TRIO that gave Kaye the tools for her new position as assistant dean for students in the Fairmount College Dean's Office.

In her new role, which she began in November, she serves as the liaison between the Fairmount College and Admissions and supports LAS student organizations.

"My new position allows me to bring the best of what I learned working in TRIO to a larger stage, to apply those lessons to more students and to systems that aren't always created to work with educationally marginalized populations," she says.

Kaye says she hopes to create better solutions and improve systems so barriers become smaller and fewer.

Helping students be the people they want to be

Kaye calls herself living proof of what a college degree – and learning how to persevere – can do.

"I had lots of challenges, many of them related to persons doubting my knowledge and my abilities," she says. "What they didn't know was that when you've had a job since you were 12, helped cover expenses in your home since you were 16 and are the first in your family to attend and graduate college, you can do and know how to do a lot of things that your peers don't."

Kaye graduated from Wichita North High School, a point she is particularly proud of. Her parents and their siblings, nearly half of her 24 cousins and her niece all attended North High.

She came to Wichita State in 1989 as a Gore Scholar and went on to earn her bachelor's in chemistry / business, master's in public administration and a certificate of higher education administration.



While a student, Kaye also started her first of many jobs at WSU. She was a student employee in Housing and Residence Life, working with students of color who lived on campus. That led to a full-time position as residence hall director and then director for two years of the AmeriCorps program through LAS and the Hugo Wall School.

When the decision was made not to reapply for the AmeriCorps grant, Kaye moved to the Admissions as the first, full-time employee dedicated to the recruitment of community college transfer students.

After three years working to recruit students, she joined the Office of Special Programs as the director of the TRIO Upward Bound Math Science Program. She was only 27. There she stayed for 20 years, and while she now has a new role with the university, her work with TRIO is far from over, as she continues to serve as liaison with Wichita State's 10 TRIO programs.

Serving students will always be what motivates Kaye.

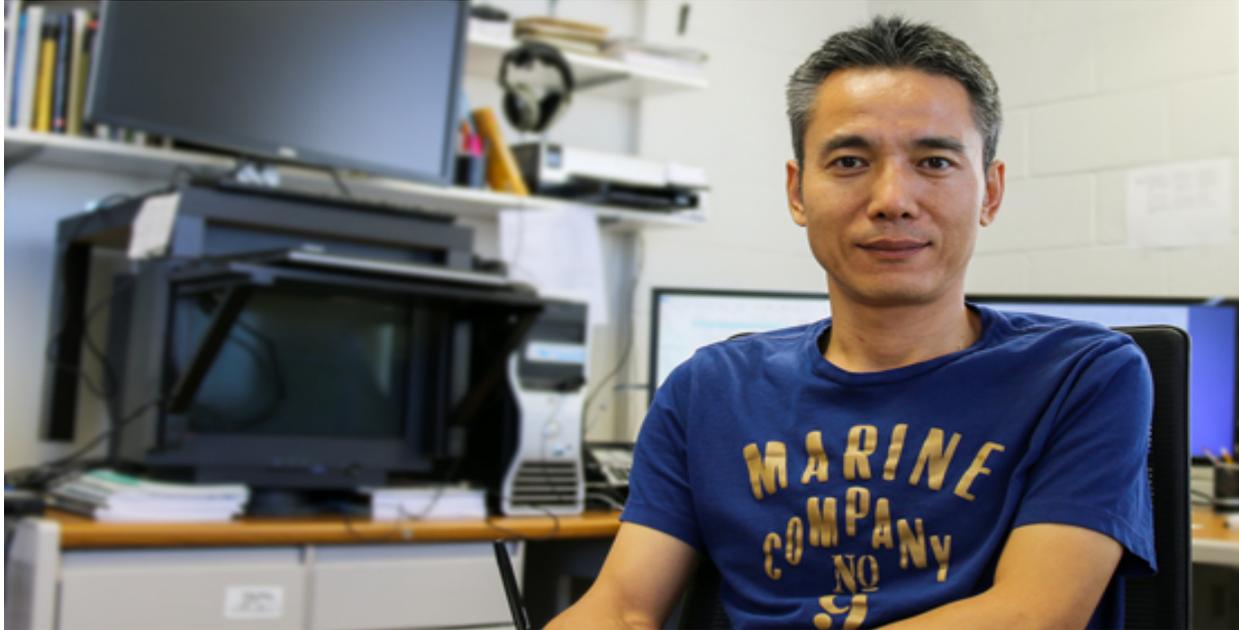
“My favorite thing about working at WSU is the students and the opportunity to help them become the people that they say they want to be,” she says. “I believe I have been created for this work, and I love to do it.”

Kaye says she was fortunate to have grown up in a family with a lot of love and support. Her grandfather, John Monk, who turns 102 years old this month, role-modeled family for her and her siblings, and she says she tries to live up to that example.

She and husband Derek Morgan, a WSU grad and manager of the Military Certification Office for the Federal Aviation Administration, have been married for 21 years. They have two sons; Payton, a mechanical engineering student at WSU, and Cameron, a senior at Wichita Northeast Magnet High School.

Grant of the Month: Collaboration leads to \$1.8 million grant for WSU

Posted: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 Posted: 4:54:29 PM CT



A collaborative study between Wichita State University, the University of Kansas Medical Center and a Kansas State University-led team of psychological sciences researchers has received a prestigious five-year, \$10.6 million Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant.

WSU will receive a sub-award for their collaboration with KSU, totaling \$1,781,344. The grant will go toward two research projects. Rui Ni, WSU associate professor of psychology and project leader for both projects, plans on using this grant to further his research and to help others.

“The project will focus on the neuronal plasticity among older adults,” says Ni. “We’ll develop training procedures to improve their visual cognitive functions and look for transferred learning effects on driving performance.”

» Read the full article below:

WSU, KSU collaboration leads to \$1.8 million grant for WSU

Thursday, September 14, 2017

By Sydney Payne

-
- Wichita State has received a \$1.8 million grant -- part of a \$10.6 million project with Kansas State University and the University of Kansas Medical Center.
 - The grant money will be used for two different projects, one focusing on the neuronal plasticity among older adults, and the other creating a 3D driving simulator.
 - Learn more about Rui Ni's projects and the COBRE grant sub-award at <http://bit.ly/ruinicobre>.
-

A collaborative study between Wichita State University, the University of Kansas Medical Center and a Kansas State University-led team of psychological sciences researchers has received a prestigious five-year, \$10.6 million Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant.

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“The project will focus on the neuronal plasticity among older adults,” says Ni. “We’ll develop training procedures to improve their visual cognitive functions and look for transferred learning effects on driving performance.”

Ni will use \$1,008,870 of the sub-award to fund his project, and the remaining \$772,474 will go toward a state-of-the-art 3D high-fidelity driving simulator that will use advanced technology, such as eye tracking, to study driving behavior.

Ni and his colleagues are working on finding a space big enough for the driving simulator, but they hope it will be open to research communities in the Wichita area and throughout Kansas by next summer.

“I think the ultimate goal is to improve driving safety among older drivers and help them to live a happy, safe and more independent life,” says Ni.

Jeremy Patterson, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Creativity, is excited for this opportunity and looks forward to following Ni and his colleagues’ progress.

“This is a wonderful and deserving achievement for Dr. Ni and collaborators at KSU,” says Patterson. “The purpose of the COBRE funds are to enhance an institution’s biomedical research infrastructure and build relationships with other researchers.”

Ni and his colleagues at KSU spent nearly two years to prepare the original application and another two years to file the resubmission before winning this COBRE grant.

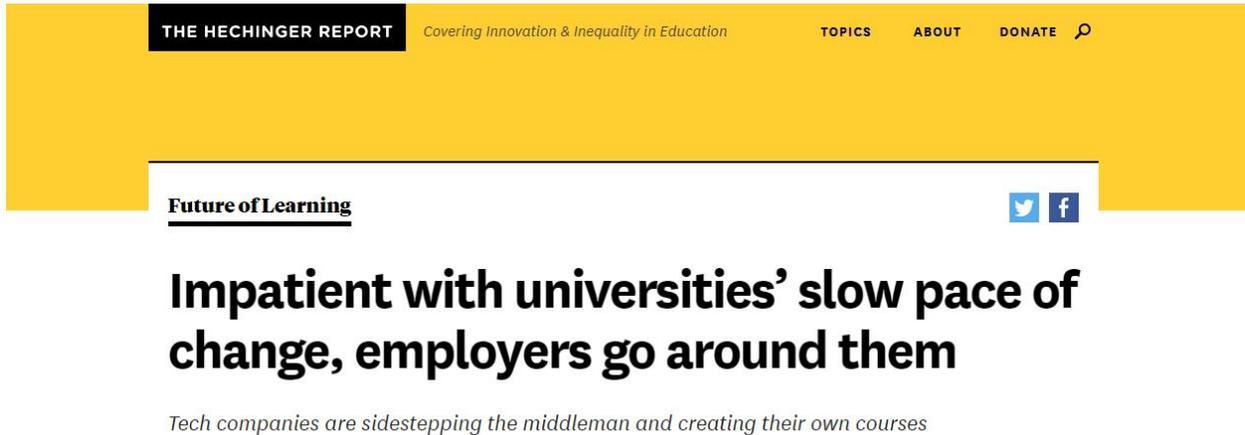
“This would not be possible without the strong support from the former chair, Dr. Alex Chaparro, and the current chair, Dr. Rhonda Louis, of the Psychology Department,” says Ni.

This is the first major COBRE grant sub-award to be received by WSU.

[» Learn more about Ni's projects and the COBRE grant.](#)

What I'm Reading: Tech companies creating their own courses

Posted: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 Posted: 4:55:52 PM CT



The screenshot shows a yellow header for 'THE HECHINGER REPORT' with the tagline 'Covering Innovation & Inequality in Education'. Navigation links for 'TOPICS', 'ABOUT', and 'DONATE' are visible. Below the header, the article is categorized under 'Future of Learning' with social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. The main title of the article is 'Impatient with universities' slow pace of change, employers go around them', followed by a subtitle: 'Tech companies are sidestepping the middleman and creating their own courses'.

When a provost learned from an alumnus that a local company was preparing to hire huge numbers of data analysts, he fast-tracked a new degree program specifically in that subject.

The speed at which the university responded to a workforce need was a major feat – and something experts say needs to happen more of academia is going to keep up with the demand of America's tech industry needs.

[» Read the full article.](#)



President's Message: Innovation Campus as both a place and a mindset

Posted: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Posted: 1:47:38 PM CT



Sometimes a friend will ask me, with genuine concern, if we're taking too many risks and changing too fast at Wichita State.

My short answer is no, we're not changing too fast. The bigger question is: Are we changing fast enough to meet the changing needs and expectations of society and the people we serve?

None of what we're doing is revolutionary, but in the context of higher education it can be fairly qualified as rapid evolution. That's why there's so much interest in what we're doing with applied learning and research and why those efforts are beginning to attract attention beyond Kansas.

One part of the evolution underway is the changing nature of how I'm using the term "Innovation Campus."

From when I first publicly described it in August 2014 until recently, Innovation Campus referred to the 120-acre site that had been the home of Braeburn Golf Course and Wheatshocker apartments.

In the past year, the concept has grown beyond those borders. As the original site has developed more quickly than I could have hoped or forecast, "Innovation Campus" has come to mean a mindset as well as a physical place.

In discussions with the executive team and deans, we've begun to think about Innovation Campus as any place where the university has the opportunity to put the strategic plan vision and mission into action.

Some recent examples away from the Braeburn site are WSU Old Town, where WSU and WSU Tech have co-located several health professions programs, and Shocker Studios (at the former Wichita Mall site) where WSU got the opportunity to take over great broadcast studio and animation facilities.

In the expanded Innovation Campus mindset, those sites are also Innovation Campus, even though they are miles away.

On Feb. 15, I had the honor of testifying at a U.S. House of Representatives hearing on new approaches to STEM learning.

I was among four educators asked to present brief testimony, submit longer written testimony and respond to questions from members of the Research and Technology subcommittee of the Committee of Science, Space and Technology.

The two-hour hearing explored how participation in mentoring, training and apprenticeship opportunities impact STEM students and help address the workforce needs of industry.

Applied learning and economic development are at the heart of what makes Wichita State distinct, so I was proud to describe the efforts underway here. That includes the burgeoning business partnerships that are part of the Innovation Campus, as well as the growth of our badges, certificates, online education and work with area high schools.

The work being done here is getting noticed far outside of Wichita. My hope is for Congress to look closely at what can be done nationally to incent and reward more universities to focus on applied learning and research and play their part in stimulating local economies.

After the hearing, Andy Schlapp I enjoyed a discussion with committee staff members, who

appeared deeply interested in the model being created by WSU and through our new affiliation with WSU Tech.

If you're interested in viewing the entire hearing, go to <http://bit.ly/2EItaNi>. My brief testimony begins at 53:40, just before the members questions begin. The full written testimony can be viewed at bit.ly/BardoCongress.

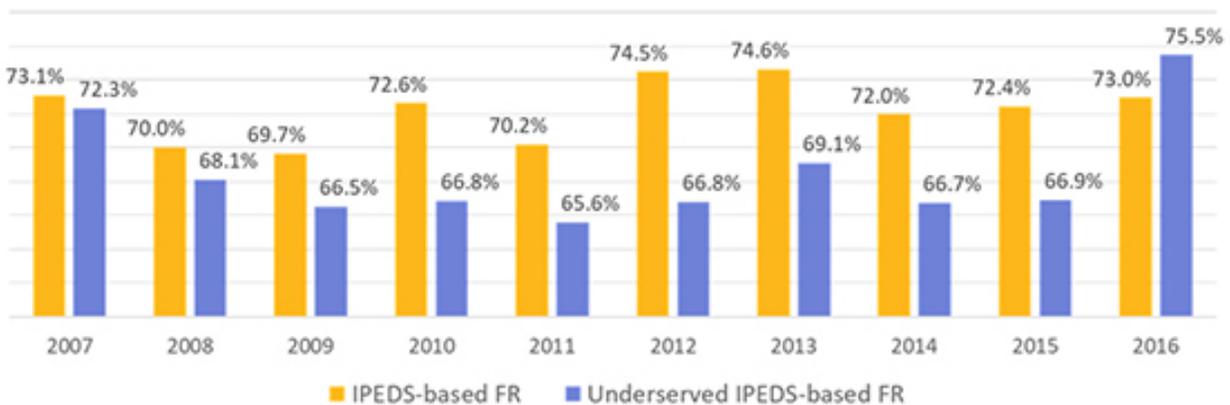
As always, I welcome your thoughts, president@wichita.edu.

SEM Check-In: Student retention

Posted: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Posted: 1:58:00 PM CT

In conjunction with the University's Strategic Planning process, WSU has developed a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan for growth over the next three years. To stay informed on the progress toward our goals, each month we will provide the status of one of the goals and provide information for you to assist us in moving the goal forward.

This month, we'll focus on: **Goal 3** - Increase retention rates of degree seeking underserved student populations by 2.5 percent yearly through fall 2020. The following graph illustrates our progress over the last 10 years, which shows a significant increase this past year.



We have been working on providing service to students in a coordinated effort – across colleges and across divisions. One tool that allows us to do that is the [Student Success Collaborative](#) (SSC). Recently, we upgraded the platform to SSC Campus, which includes the following options that weren't previously available:

- Advising appointment scheduling
- Advising reports
- Messaging students by texting
- Tutoring requests and scheduling
- Tutoring tracking and reporting

This spring, we will focus our continued roll-out on training and use among First-Year Advisors, College of Education advisors and Fairmount College advisors, coordinated and active campaigning from specialized advisors, and tutoring program workflows.

What can you do?

1. Attend SSC Campus training. If you are a faculty, college, First-Year or specialized advisor, you can attend one of the monthly trainings, scheduled in myTraining, to understand the basics of scheduling and campaigning through SSC Campus. To find out if you have access to the platform, **log into myWSU** and look for the “SSC Campus” link in the Advisor Links channel on the Teach/Advise tab.
2. Identify students who are at risk of not graduating because of academic performance and run a campaign. A campaign is defined as a message sent to a group of students, indicating they need to take action. Not sure where to begin? Find 61 campaign ideas at www.wichita.edu/ssc.
3. Don't have access, but interested in using the platform? Reach out to your college advising center to inquire about using SSC Campus. If you are not in an academic college, email kim.sandlin@wichita.edu and express your interest in knowing more.

The Division of Student Affairs also contributes greatly to Goal 3 of the SEM plan. Strategies related to specific tactics that are ongoing within the division are outlined below.

- The Office of Diversity and Inclusion continues to provide a variety of training resources to the university community to address issues of identity which can help all students to feel more comfortable in classes and thereby increase student satisfaction and retention.
- The Care Team service coordinator will take on some additional responsibilities within the division to further our outreach to families and overall support to students.
- Student Affairs is also attempting to live up to its vision of “Connecting Every Student” by analyzing data to determine if and how all new students are connected to WSU outside of their academic areas. Students without connections will then be contacted to determine the services available to them that would best fit their needs.

For more information on using SSC Campus, contact kim.sandlin@wichita.edu. For more information on the Division of Student Affairs' efforts, contact aaron.austin@wichita.edu.

Diversity Update: A university commitment to diversity

Posted: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Posted: 1:49:39 PM CT

The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement strives to fulfill WSU's commitment to embrace, enhance and celebrate diversity at all levels of the university and community through the efforts of faculty, staff, students, the executive leadership and community partnerships.

The President's Diversity Council (PDC) aspires to be a leader in promoting diversity to reach the highest levels of excellence. February marks the second year of PDC, an advisory and leadership team responsible for developing, overseeing and monitoring university-wide efforts to achieve WSU's commitment to diversity as a core institutional and educational value. Thank you for a successful two years, and I look forward for more positive outcomes looking forward.

February is Black History Month and a time to celebrate with pride African Americans' history and heritage. This month has been commemorated through a variety of opportunities, and we encourage you to follow WSU Today for more events.

Feb. 13 was also National Trio Day 2018. I would like to thank Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for nontraditional students in the division of Diversity and Community Engagement, as well as the directors for their hard work. According to the 1986 Congressional resolution, National Trio Day is meant to focus the nation's "attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made." A job well done Trio and GEAR UP staff!

Mark your calendar: Create Campaign Inc. is presenting an interactive exhibit tour and talk featuring Robert E. Weems Jr., creator of the Wichita African Americans in Business History Project and Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History. The free event is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, on the lower level of Ablah Library. [Registration is requested.](#)

*"If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity."
- John F. Kennedy*

Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle
Vice president, Diversity and Community Engagement



A Shocker You Should Know: Justin Petersen

Posted: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Posted: 1:58:37 PM CT



As part of WSU's commitment to easing the transition for transfer students, OneStop Student Services recently created the position of transfer specialist, hiring Justin Petersen in November.

Justin comes to us from Cowley College, where he was the coordinator of enrollment. His highest priority at WSU focuses on providing a smooth transfer process. To accomplish that, Justin's focus is on creating resources for prospective students that will answer their key questions: How will my credits transfer? How long will it take to graduate? What are my career options?

The new [Transfer Gateway](#) that was just deployed has been crucial in helping students with those questions, says Justin, who works with prospective students funneled in through the gateway. He also assists recruitment efforts through campus visits and advisor luncheons.

"I love helping students discover how seamless and painless transferring to Wichita State can and should be," Justin says. "The realization that it is possible for them to make the transition and succeed, while saving time and money, is everything to them and myself."

Justin got involved in this line of work while in charge of customer service at the Cowley College bookstore. He admired what he saw while observing students interact with their advisors and decided to apply for an admissions representative position.

He was quickly promoted to enrollment coordinator and saw the chance to do even more at Wichita State.

“WSU has a stellar reputation in the community and is really focused on their students and providing the best experience possible,” he says. “I am thrilled to be a part of this amazing university family.”

Justin earned his bachelor’s in music and master’s in vocal music from Emporia State University. When he’s not running or doing yoga, he puts those degrees to use as the tenor section leader and soloist at First Presbyterian Church, as well as an active performer for Wichita Grand Opera, Wichita Chamber Chorale and Opera Kansas.



Grant of the Month: Smart Management for Small Drinking Water Systems

Posted: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Posted: 1:59:48 PM CT

The [WSU Environmental Finance Center](#) (EFC) received a subaward of \$200,000 by the Environmental Finance Center Network for its part in the nationwide Smart Management for Small Drinking Water Systems project.

The Small Systems Project seeks to address major issues facing the nation's small drinking water systems, defined as systems serving 10,000 or fewer people. Small water systems face unique challenges, such as increased costs because of drinking water regulations, as well as the need to balance affordability to customers with financial viability.

The Small Systems Project aims to address these issues, along with other common water management topics, including asset management, water rate-setting, water loss detection and conservation. The project works with water systems across the country, U.S. territories and the Navajo Nation.

This is the fifth round of the project. In that time, WSU EFC has conducted in-person training for more than 600 attendees and provided technical assistance to 45 communities.

In 2018, WSU EFC will continue its work with an additional 11 in-person trainings across the U.S. focused on utility asset management, water loss, board training, funding and workforce development. The WSU EFC will also provide technical assistance for 20 different water systems.

“This project has enabled the WSU EFC to cultivate valuable relationships with our partners and has supported our mission to create solutions to environmental challenges to improve quality of life in communities across the country,” says Michele Pugh, project lead and WSU EFC Director.



» Read the full article below:

Current Projects and Programs

Click on a photo below to learn more about some of our current projects and programs. For updates on our latest work and training opportunities, [follow us on social media](#).



[National Projects](#) | [Regional Projects](#) | [Local Projects](#) | [Past Projects](#)

National Projects

Smart Water Management for Small Water Systems

The WSU EFC has begun work as part of the EFCN team on the fourth year of the Smart Management for Small Water Systems project. WSU will lead trainings in 2017 on the topics of water asset management, board training, workforce development, funding and water conservation.

The WSU Environmental Finance Center will facilitate trainings in the following states:

- Kansas
- Missouri
- Iowa

- Nebraska
- Indiana
- Alabama
- Michigan
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Wyoming
- Mississippi

In addition, WSU will be providing international webinars throughout the year, and providing custom technical assistance to approximately 30 communities. (Funding provided by EPA.) For additional information and training registration visit the efcnetwork.org.

CLASIC (Community Life-Cycle Analysis for Stormwater Infrastructure Costs)

As part of a national team of universities, the Water Environment and Reuse Foundation and the Water Environment Federation, the EFC is working to create an online tool that will assist communities of all sizes to determine the life cycle cost of stormwater assets, with attention to green infrastructure.

Regional Projects

Sustainable Materials Management Grant

The world's use of materials to create goods is growing, contributing to increased environmental impacts, water and energy use, climate concerns, pollution and socioeconomic factors. The grant will be used to promote a systemic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycle, reducing the negative impacts of waste and pollution in the Midwest. The WSU Environmental Finance Center will partner with the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center to host trainings in Omaha and Wichita for local government and education professionals. The center will also award stipends to Wichita State University and University of Nebraska Omaha engineering students to help them complete projects that improve sustainable materials management in the community. (Funding provided by EPA Region 7.)

State/Local Projects

Careers in Water Stewardship (Work in Water)

The WSU EFC is creating a classroom learning module and summer internship program for high school students to increase their knowledge of the importance of water treatment for the environment and public health, and to stimulate interest in occupations in environmental water management. The goal is to provide interactive classroom lessons to 8 high schools and more than 200 students. Five summer interns will be chosen to work at their local water or

wastewater utility for hands-on career exploration. An informational network between schools, state agencies and professionals in the field will help provide teachers and school counselors with resources about occupations in water and wastewater to further promote water related careers for their students. Project steering committee partners include the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Municipal Utilities, the Kansas Section of American Water Works Association, the Kansas Section of Water and Environment and the City of El Dorado. (Funding provided by the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Education Grant)

Kansas Asset Management Program

The WSU EFC annually delivers asset management workshops across Kansas in partnership with Kansas Municipal Utilities. A total of 8-12 trainings are offered annually. Training participants learn about the five core components of asset management and work through hands-on activities in the full day training sessions. (Funding provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.)

[Learn More](#)

Kansas Rates and Financial Planning Program

The WSU EFC annually delivers rate setting and financial planning trainings across Kansas in partnership with Kansas Municipal Utilities and Ranson Financial. A total of 6-12 trainings are offered annually. The training participants learn both basic and advanced aspects of rate setting and work through hands-on activities in the full day training sessions. (Funding provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.) [Learn More](#)

Kansas Board and Council Training for Water System Governance Program

The WSU EFC, in partnership with Kansas Municipal Utilities and Ranson Financial, is developing an extensive board training program. The program includes a reference manual, community videos, presentation, class exercises and other interactive activities to make board training as effective as possible. The training is designed to equip governing bodies with the managerial, financial and technical capacity to govern a water system to meet the public health objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The training is offered 6-12 times throughout Kansas annually. (Funding provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.)

Kansas Wastewater Energy Efficiency Assessment Program

The WSU EFC annually provides energy efficiency assessments and recommendations to ten communities across Kansas. The assessments provide communities with opportunities to reduce energy demands and thus reduce costs long-term through equipment upgrades and/or operations changes. Systems are self-selected or referred by KDHE. (Funding provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.) [Learn More](#)

Municipal Utility Management Program

The WSU EFC designed the Municipal Utility Management program to develop critical management skills unique to utility management. City, county or special district managers, as well as mid-level utility managers, participate in six interactive day-long sessions that are facilitated by content experts with professional experience over a six-month period. The program topics include: Risk management, regulations, human resources, project management, finances, long-term planning, public relations and customer service. The program is offered in

partnership with Kansas Municipal Utilities. The program is currently in session and will conclude in August 2017. (Funding provided by EPA.)

Past Projects

Energy Efficiency Training and Assessment Program

The WSU EFC provided assistance to communities in EPA Region 7 to identify opportunities to reduce energy and operating costs at water and wastewater plants across the region. Work on the project began in 2014 and concluded in Sept. 2015. The project included hosting three trainings on energy efficiency, as well as identifying 8-10 systems that received water and wastewater plant energy assessments. (Funding provided by EPA Region 7.)

Missouri Water Infrastructure Affordability Assessment Project

The WSU EFC developed a Community Affordability Assessment Tool for all 745 rural communities in Missouri for the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources. The project involved extensive national literature review to determine which factors effect rural population change. Those factors were then analyzed to determine which are applicable to Missouri and then used to create pre-populated assessment tool for all rural Missouri communities that includes data for 20 individual community data points. MDNR will use the tool to identify communities that may have challenges now or in the future paying for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements and develop innovative solutions. (Funding provided by the Missouri Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority.)

Omaha Green Infrastructure Grant

The City of Omaha Stormwater Department and the Omaha Public-School District are leading the way in environmental protection and youth environmental education with their unique partnership. The WSU EFC, in partnership with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, created tools and resources for Omaha Public School's Green Infrastructure Toolkit and Education Project. The project included real-world guidance for stormwater load reductions for school grounds, classroom lessons that connect green infrastructure to student learning, and resources for school administrators and maintenance crews to promote and maintain projects into the future.

(Funding provided by EPA Region 7.)

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska Water Utility Technical and Financial Assistance Project

The WSU EFC worked with both EPA tribal enforcement staff and the Omaha Tribe's Utility Department staff to develop a sustainable financial plan for the tribe's water, wastewater and solid waste utilities. In addition to financial assistance, the EFC is assisting with technical operations at the plant to increase energy efficiency of the water plant as well as reduce water loss in the system. The EFC also developed operating budgets for the tribe's utilities and will be making recommendations on rate structures. The project will concluded in 2015. (Funding provided by EPA Region 7.)

Kansas Water Rate Setting Online Program (Online Rate Check-Up Tool)

The WSU EFC, in partnership with T3 Technology Training Team and Ranson Financial, jointly developed a user-friendly online water rate setting program. The program provides small water systems the ability to enter three years of water use data and financial statement information, which allows the program to deliver tailored rate recommendations that enable systems to fully fund their operations. The tool is free for Kansas systems. [Check out the Rate Check-Up Tool here.](#) (Funding provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.)

West Wichita Water Contamination Project

The WSU EFC, in partnership with the University of Kansas School of Medicine, was selected to participate in a community study to investigate health impacts that have resulted from a recently discovered groundwater contamination plume in west Wichita. Almost 200 residents in the area were on well water when they were exposed to PCE from a nearby dry cleaner for what could have been decades. Since the discovery in early 2014, the residents have been connected to city water through state funding. The scope of our study included three aims:

- Examine the actions to date on the site and technical documents
- Conduct an assessment of remaining needs of the affected community
- Identify health concerns raised by residents

WSU conducted focus groups and interviews with residents to identify any obvious health concerns as well as any additional needs residents have. (Funding provided by the Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation.)

Kansas Nonpoint Source Revolving Loan Fund Project

The WSU EFC provided technical assistance to support the development and implementation of a low-interest state revolving loan (SRF) program to be utilized to fund nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects in Kansas. The program provided a new low-cost option to promote improved water quality across the state. WSU's services included analyzing similar programs in other states, developing a financial framework between the state and the banks and implementing the framework with a few pilot banks. (Funding provided by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.)

Water Research Foundation Project

Through a sub-award with the University of New Mexico EFC, the WSU EFC assisted with a study titled "Identifying and Evaluating Opportunities for Reducing Variability of Utility Revenues." The study identified alternative rate structures that provide water utilities with more revenue stability. The project includes a literature review, qualitative analysis, investigation of other utility practices, and case study development. (Funding provided by the Water Research Foundation.)

What I'm Reading: 'Amazon is quietly becoming its own university'

Posted: Friday, February 16, 2018 Posted: 10:14:35 PM CT



Amazon made a move earlier this year that tells of curious things to come and proves that its empire is not only going strong, but now taking on higher education.

[» Read the full article.](#)



President's Message: The truth about Innovation Campus

Posted: Monday, March 05, 2018 Posted: 11:52:03 AM CT

A crucial collaboration for WSU's survival

This longer-than-usual message is intended to address misgivings we have heard and read about the Innovation Campus and refocus the university community on utilizing the tremendous potential we have here for research, teaching, service and community engagement. I welcome honest disagreement and thoughtful questions about our plans and actions. You can send follow-up comments or questions to president@wichita.edu.

I am pleased to learn that Interim Provost Rick Muma is in the early stages of discussing with faculty new ways of tapping into the full breadth of the Innovation Campus concept. I welcome that discussion and would encourage other campus senates to consider their own Innovation Campus initiatives.

The ideas for Innovation Campus grew from close observation of similar research parks at other universities, conversations with colleagues, community and business leaders and from Wichita State's 2013 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan, <http://wichita.edu/wsustrategy>, honors Wichita State's history, recognizes its strengths and intelligently addresses the difficult circumstances in which public universities now find themselves.

The strategic plan is ambitious, and the journey to achieving its vision and mission cannot always be a comfortable one. The path we follow may be different than ones WSU has traveled before. That's because the rapidly changing demands on universities, the dwindling resources to support public higher education and the continuing quest for excellence, relevance and growth all require both sacrifice and risk to achieve a secure future.

The concept of the Innovation Campus – collaboration, applied learning and research – is not just restricted to the 120 acres that used to be Braeburn Golf Course. It is our goal that the spirit of the Innovation Campus comes to permeate every aspect of WSU, transforming the *entire* enterprise into a student-centered and innovation-driven university.

Innovation Campus itself has become controversial in some quarters because it involves public-private partnerships, known as P3s, that have been common in American higher education for decades, but are still relatively new to many in Kansas.

The University of Kansas has its own large P3 development project underway, known as the Central District Development project. It's a \$350 million project undertaken with a single private firm to build science facilities, student space, student housing, parking, utilities and associated infrastructure.

The Association of University Research Parks (AURP) defines a university research park, such as Innovation Campus, as a property-based venture with these characteristics:

- Master plans property designed for research and commercialization
- Creates partnerships with universities and research institutions
- Encourages the growth of new companies
- Translates technology
- Drives technology-led economic development

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND RESEARCH PARKS

Public-private partnerships are being used by universities in many, if not all, states and in many countries around the world. Our Innovation Campus is one of approximately 170 university research/technology/business parks that are members of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP).

Most university members are research universities, and most parks have been developed since the early 1980s as a result of changes in public policy regarding technology transfer, but some are substantially older (including Stanford and Cornell). Al Link, a widely respected researcher in this field, describes them this way:

A university-related research park is a cluster of technology-based organizations (consisting primarily of private-sector research companies but also of selected federal and state research agencies and not-for-profit research foundations) that locate on or near a university campus in order to benefit from its knowledge base and research activities.

A university is motivated to develop a research park by the possibility of financial gain associated with technology transfer, the opportunity to have faculty and students interact at the applied level with research organizations, and a desire to contribute to regional economic growth. Research organizations are motivated by the opportunity for access to eminent faculty and their students and university research equipment, as well as the possibility of fostering research synergies (<http://issues.org/20-1/realnumbers-13/>).

PRIVATE-PRIVATE COLLABORATION FOR PUBLIC GOOD

Innovation Campus buildings and infrastructure are financed through a mix of public and private dollars: commitments from the State of Kansas, City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and other organizations and companies that believe Wichita State's vision, mission and goals are critical to the future of the region and Kansas.

This type of collaboration with industry and community partners is now crucial for public universities to thrive.

WSU hasn't sold a single square foot of land to create Innovation Campus. The university has no intention of selling its land, nor could it without legislative approval. The P3 model minimizes WSU's financial burden and risk while ensuring a valuable return on investment to the university because, at the end of each lease, the university acquires the improvements on the land for its own use.

Following the pattern of other research universities across the nation, we created a non-profit organization, Wichita State Innovation Alliance, as a vehicle to focus attention on Innovation Campus and pursue partnerships to benefit the university and its students.

Through WSIA, WSU leases pockets of its land to private partners and, in turn, these private partners develop, with private money, the structures on the land that ultimately will help us achieve educational, vocational and collaborative opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

With this background in mind, the following provides additional knowledge and resources aimed at explaining and clarifying recent topics that have been discussed in the media about the Innovation Campus.

HOW ARE THE PROJECTS FUNDED?

Since the inception of the Innovation Campus, there have been inaccurate claims in newspapers and on social media that the university has circumvented the state bidding process. The *truth* is that WSU has followed and will continue to follow state law and KBOR policy for every project on the Innovation Campus today and in the future.

When the university intends to spend more than \$1 million of State General Fund dollars for any capital improvement or financing, it is required to both seek and obtain the approval of KBOR and put those projects out for bid. To date, the projects both on and off the physical Innovation Campus site (including the parking garage located next to the Rhatigan Student Center) that fall into this category have been awarded to three different contractors, based on their low bids. Dondlinger has been awarded \$32 million in work; Crossland has been awarded \$11.5 million; and Nowak has been awarded \$970,000.

In addition to these publicly funded projects, the Innovation Campus is home to several privately funded projects. These projects are the result of private developers responding to the general invitation extended to *any and all* financially qualified individuals or groups who have an interest in partnering with the university. This invitation can be found online.

Innovation Campus Funding Overview

Project	Publicly Funded (State General Funds)	Privately Funded (Industry Development)
Airbus		X
Braeburn Square		X
Business School*	X	X
Crash Dynamics Lab (in design, not yet bid)	X	
Element by Westin Hotel		X
Experiential Engineering Building	X	
GoCreate**	X	X
Law Enforcement Training Center***		X
Starbucks		X
The Flats at WSU (Phase I and II)		X
Wonder School		X
YMCA/Student Health and Wellness Center****		X

*Business School fundraising underway

**GoCreate construction part of EEB public funding; interior privately funded

***LETC partnership with City of Wichita and Sedgwick County

****YMCA/Wellness Center supported, in part, with student fees

There has been no violation of open process requirements on *any* publicly funded project on Innovation Campus. We understand and expect to be subject to public scrutiny. As we work, with your help, to sustain the university into the future, we will continue to achieve progress with transparency.

While Innovation Campus has experienced much growth as of late, below is a more in-depth examination of are three projects that have drawn particular attention – Wonder, YMCA and The Flats.

WONDER SCHOOL

Most people on campus probably haven't been in the 1953 building that formerly housed the university's print shop. Last year, the creators of a new private school began talking with university representatives about the possibility of leasing space on campus for their startup school, with the idea that if their concept succeeded, they would eventually need to build a larger building on Innovation Campus or elsewhere.

So why locate at WSU? The school's concept for an experience-based learning environment is consistent with what the university is creating with the Innovation Campus. Wonder founders report that they have received a strong positive response from parents of potential students and educators interested in joining the Wonder school.

As is the case with most of the buildings on the Innovation Campus, the university reaps the benefit of a newly built (or, in this case, fully remodeled) space *without* bearing any financial risk. During Wonder's occupancy of the university facility, it will pay monthly rent to the university. And, in the event that the school is so much of a success that it outgrows these

temporary quarters, Wonder will turn the fully remodeled facility (an investment of over \$1 million) back over to the university without any further obligation *from* the university. At this point, the university will be able to make use of this modern facility for any suitable purpose, probably as an innovation center.

YMCA/STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

WSU is excited for the YMCA to bring a facility to campus that will provide students, faculty, staff, university partners and the community with more health and wellness opportunities, including expanded spaces for Student Health Services and the Counseling Center. The university has developed a collaborative relationship with the YMCA, providing faculty, staff and students an opportunity to be engaged in the planning process by discussing and providing input into the facility needs and design in order to elevate student health services and facilities. The YMCA has primary responsibility for construction financing.

There have been suggestions and insinuations that WSU is more involved in this project than it should be, considering it is private development. For example, one media report raised questions about a discussion between WSU and the YMCA over concern that the YMCA (not WSU) would need to construct an extensive and expensive storm water detention pond or underground tank. These are very typical conversations and concerns in property development. As it turned out, engineers devised a low-cost solution that did not require a pond or tank.

THE FLATS

The Flats at WSU, developed and owned by a private company, was initially designed to be a private housing option for students and non-students. The university capitalized on the window of opportunity to close an aging student housing facility (Fairmount Towers), whose upkeep was becoming unsustainable and whose location was considered too out-of-the-way by some potential residents and their parents.

The Flats provides upgraded and expanded campus housing and brings students into the heart of campus where they are active, engaged and connected. We know from published studies that student retention is most successful when students make a social connection at the university during their first semester. These connections are made through participation in student groups, organized activities, sports, etc. For this reason, location and programming are very important aspects of student housing. Programming involves Student Affairs and Housing and Residence Life, and includes study groups, training, bonding and teambuilding activities.

At Fairmount Towers, it was difficult for students to make these social connections because they were removed from the main campus. At The Flats, students live where they connect; their location is more central to university activities, and their living space is designed to provide opportunities for small group interaction, creating the perfect atmosphere for “points of collision” and student retention. It has been more successful than we hoped and imagined.

Because of this success, we sought and received approval from KBOR for a second phase of Innovation Campus housing. The developers have received feedback from staff and students for lower-cost, space-efficient housing units. We support this expansion and expect construction to begin in the next several months for occupancy in mid-2019.

THE END IS JUST THE BEGINNING

We want you to know that we hear you. We hear your questions, your concerns and your desire for more discussion and transparency. We thank you for caring deeply enough about this university to hold us accountable.

While our processes have always been within the boundaries of state law and policy, we want to leave no room for doubt. We are committed to sharing the university's story with you and we want to hear your stories and answer your questions and concerns.

Please make time to visit and enjoy the new facilities on the east side of campus, including the walking paths. Changes can be seen nearly every day and we believe they will benefit the student body, faculty/staff, community, region and state for many years to come.

Diversity Update: Women's History Month

Posted: Monday, March 05, 2018 Posted: 11:52:58 AM CT

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.

Our history is filled with hidden figures who persevered to promote equity for women in our nation and community.

Throughout women's history, there are heroes both known and unknown. From Harriett Tubman to Sheryl Sandberg, these unique stories and journeys have made an immeasurable impact on society.

The great Maya Angelou said, "When you learn -- teach. When you get -- give," and this lesson applies to all aspects of life. As faculty, students and staff, we are challenged on a daily basis to overcome gender stereotypes in order to build a better community.

Trailblazing women have served in society as leaders, mentors and educators, and have made a difference in the lives of others.

As the first African American female vice president at Wichita State, I am filled with gratitude as I reflect on the sacrifices of women that paved the way for my success. In the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, we are excited to celebrate and promote women's history as we strive to reduce the societal barriers of gender inequality.



Shocker Pride!

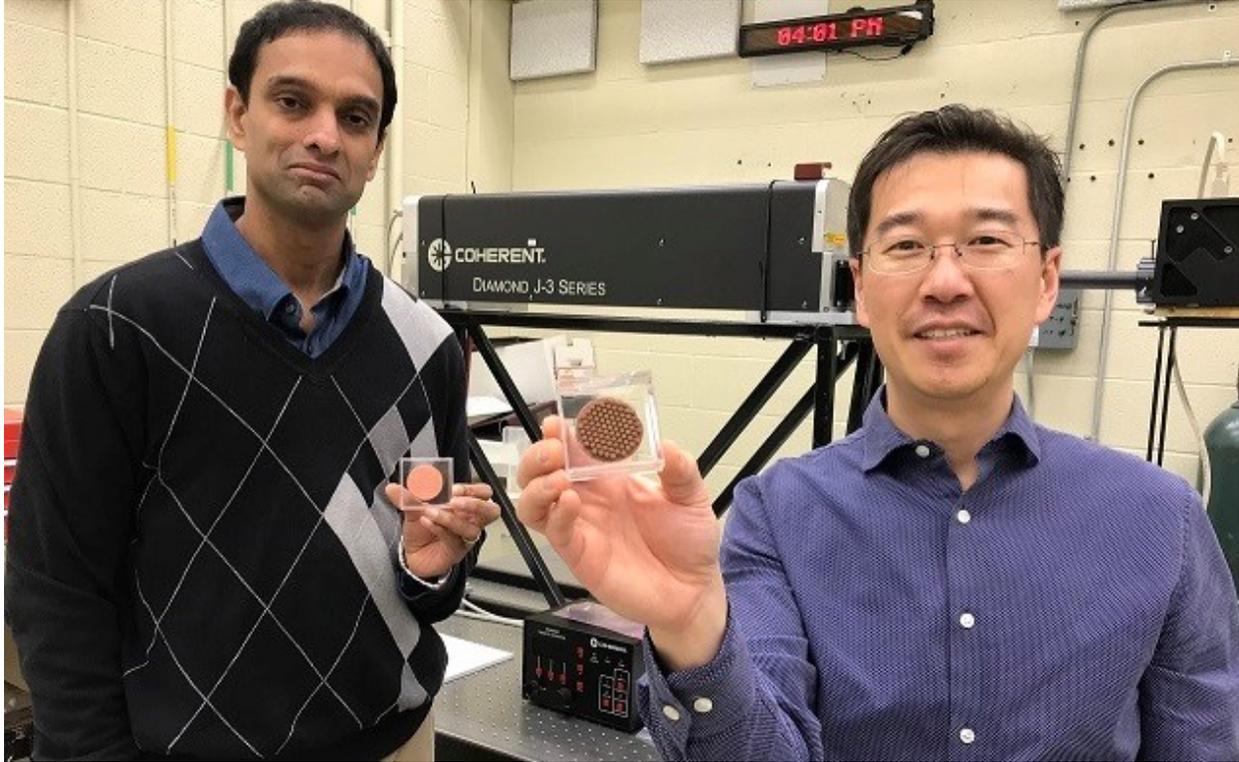
Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle
Vice president, Diversity and Community Engagement

"You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all of the world's problems at once, but don't ever underestimate the importance you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own."

- Michelle Obama

Grant of the Month: \$1 million NASA grant

Posted: Monday, March 05, 2018 Posted: 11:53:11 AM CT



Two Wichita State professors are leading the way on a multi-university research project funded by a \$1,130,121 NASA grant, including \$380,121 as a match.

Gisuk Hwang is the project lead, in collaboration with Rajeev Nair, both of whom are assistant professors in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The goal of the research is to improve the water evaporation/condensation process in NASA's next-generation spacecraft technologies, allowing for more effective cooling and water production systems for extending human presence in space.

Existing evaporator/condenser technology has limitations and has resulted in complex and expensive spacecraft, spacesuits and habitat designs.

Using laser-sintered, novel capillary structures, the research team will work to develop efficient and compact cooling and water production systems by separating liquid from vapor flow.

The capillary structures could also pave a pathway for sustainable energy, environmental and industrial systems on Earth, including efficient electricity production, water boilers, water desalination, smart buildings, electronics packing and food production, Hwang says.

Along with Hwang and Nair, the research team is comprised of researchers from Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab and the Glenn Research Center, as well as WireCo Inc., the Kansas Cosmosphere and various outreach centers at WSU, KSU and KU.

“This new research infrastructure in the state will stimulate research activities and empower a future STEM workforce to solve research challenges for NASA and Kansas,” says Hwang.

What I'm Reading: 'It's the end of the university as we know it'

Posted: Monday, March 05, 2018 Posted: 11:53:21 AM CT



Universities are facing a seemingly impossible crisis over how to offer accessible teaching that's individualized, yet affordable. Shocking as it might seem, there is one catch-all answer that could be the remedy: Cut the campus loose.

[» Is the future of the university is up in the air?](#)



President's Message: Enduring values in a time of change

Posted: Monday, April 23, 2018 Posted: 10:55:10 AM CT

I want to expand on the message I shared last week with a joint meeting of constituent senates. It is that our university's highest purpose has remained the same since its founding 121 years ago: to lift up lower and middle-income people through education. Some of our earliest students earned the name Wheatshockers not by buying the T-shirts at the bookstore, but the old way – by working in the fields in the sun, bringing in the cash crop.

Now, as then, we need to teach the subjects that will help our students learn to love knowledge and to succeed in their lives and work. Through the many individual success stories that we nurture, our community will also prosper.

The American model of universities has its roots in England, Italy, France and Germany. Those universities began as a way to educate clergymen and then the elite. The unique American contribution is the democratization of higher education, making it available to the common people at an affordable price. That has been especially true of what began as the tiny, private Fairmount College and grew into the Wichita State University we know today.

I'm reminded of our history by two items in my office.



On my bookshelf is a painted ceramic bust of the philosopher Plato, who is credited with establishing the first known western institution of higher education. A yellowing note on the back said it was kept on the desk of Nathan Morrison, the first president of Fairmount College.

I sit at a desk I sought out when I returned to Wichita State six years ago. When I arrived here in 1973 as an assistant professor, the desk belonged to President Clark Ahlberg. The brass seal on its front shows the university's seal and three important dates in its history: 1895, when it was founded; 1926, when it became a municipal university; and 1964, when it became a state university.

It's important to understand that innovation isn't a new idea at this university. It has always been part of our fabric. Throughout WSU's history, we have invented and adapted our teaching, research and service to address the emerging needs of our society. We have developed curriculum, degree and certificate programs to reflect the needs of our students, place and times.

Today is different because accelerating technology, declining state funding and increasing competition mean that we can't take as long to change. There will be two types of universities that continue to succeed – those historic brand names that primarily serve the financially or intellectually elite, and those, including WSU, that are agile enough to adapt to a world where success is based on creativity, diversity, globalization and new models of education.

We need to think about the 30-year-old parent of three and other working adults, who don't fit into the traditional education model of 15-week, 3-credit lecture classes. We need to serve them, too, with higher education requiring shorter commitments that fit their busy lives and employer needs for skills certifications.

We need to think of the underprivileged children, including those right on our doorstep in 67214 who may come to class hungry and need a special hand to get into and through college.

We need to think about meeting the needs of students who want to work fast-growing industries, like videogame design, senior health services, content marketing, artificial intelligence, sustainable energy and composite-based medical devices.

Through what we do at Wichita State, through what we have always done at Wichita State, we serve the needs of our people and community and fulfill the promise of democracy. I'm glad to be on this journey with you, my fellow Wheatshockers. Please send me your thoughts, president@wichita.edu.

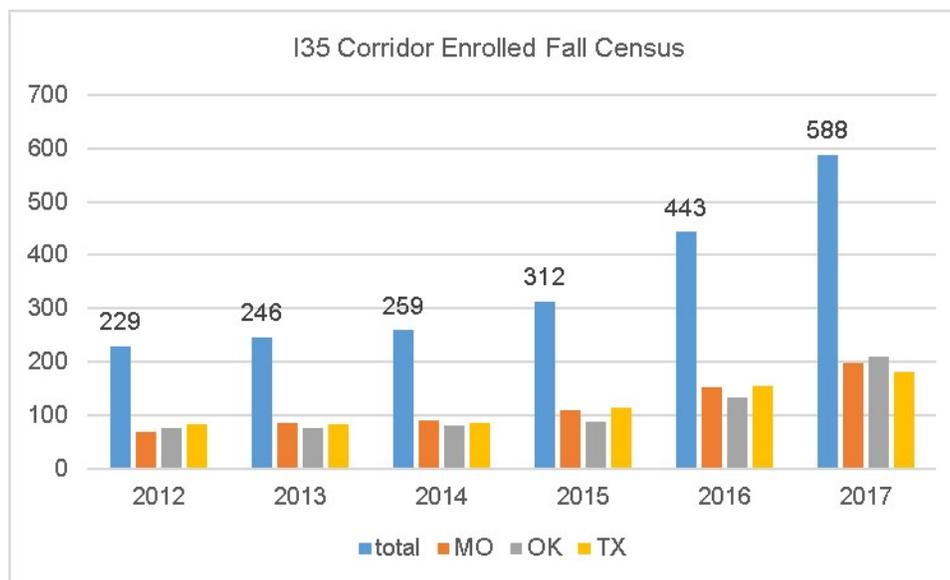
SEM Check-In: I-35, non-degree, online update

Posted: Monday, April 23, 2018 Posted: 11:22:35 AM CT

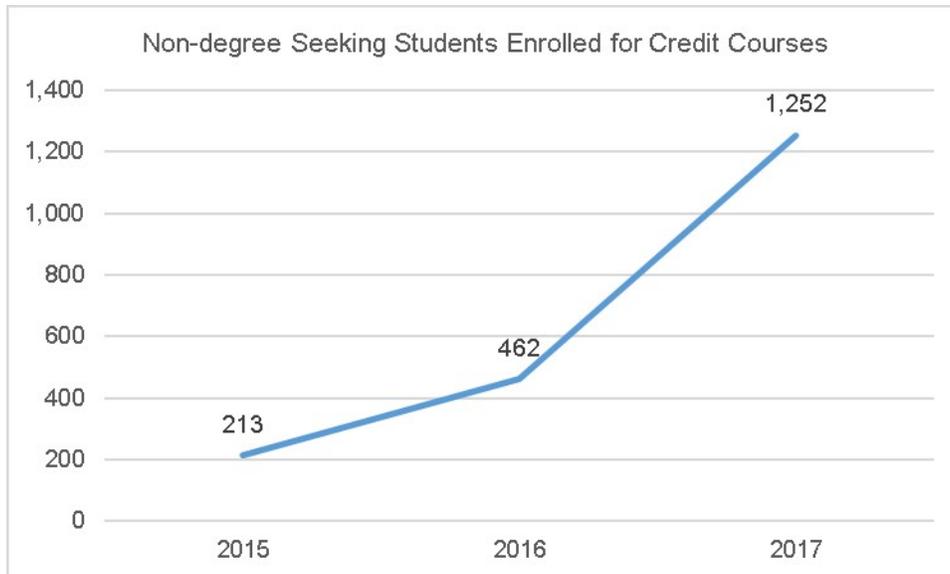
In conjunction with the University's Strategic Planning process, WSU has developed a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan for growth over the next three years. To stay informed on the progress toward our goals, each month we will provide the status of one of the goals and provide information for you to assist us in moving the goal forward.

This month we will provide updates on the enrollment goals tied to the SEM plan; specifically, enrollment along the I-35 corridor (Goal 4), non-degree enrollment for credit (Goal 5) and new online program majors enrollment (Goal 7).

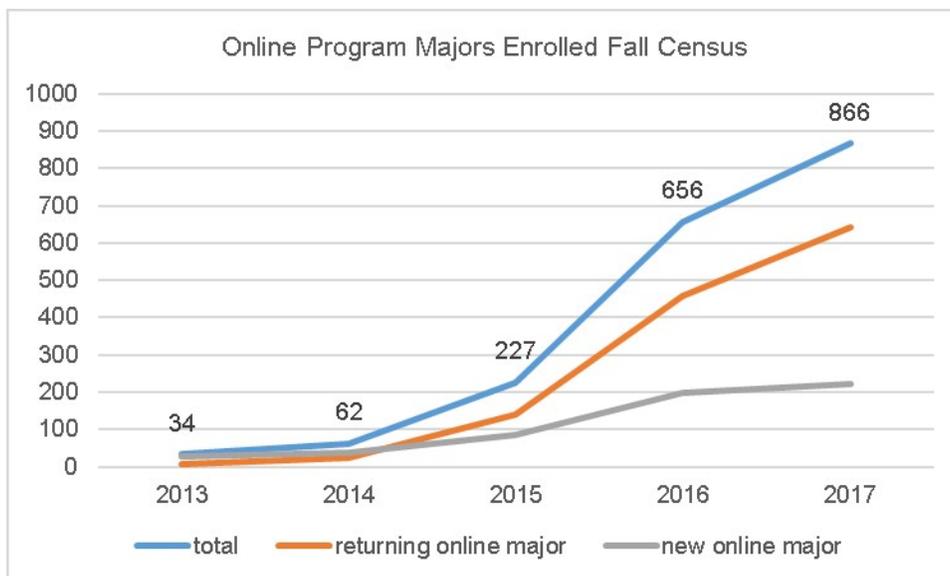
SEM Goal 4 addresses expanded enrollment along the I-35 corridor, specifically Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Since 2012, we have seen an increase in fall census enrollment, with Missouri and Oklahoma nearly tied for largest and Texas quickly catching up (a Texas-based recruiter was added late last year). Latest admission data shows a continued increase among these three states with fall 2018 admitted students from Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas up 55 percent over last year at this time.



SEM Goal 5 focuses on the development of credit bearing courses for non-degree seeking students who are in search of professional development and lifelong learning opportunities. While high school concurrent and lifelong learning have been part of our course options for some time, in 2015 we saw the introduction of market-based and micro-credential course work. This last fall we had 1,252 students (unique headcount) enrolled at census in these courses, an increase of 171 percent over fall 2016. We currently have 18 new badge courses slated for this coming fall.



SEM Goal 7 looks at the expansion of online programs. This goal adds to our already increasing online enrollment. We currently have 18 online degrees and six certificate programs enrolling students, and four new online programs expected in 2018. Our online programs place us at a strategic advantage in that we can offer fully online programs to meet the needs of both local and distance markets. While enrollment is largely impacted by the number of online programs we offer, we have seen a significant increase in online program majors with a 32 percent increase this fall at census over fall 2016 at census.



What can you do?

We know that the No. 1 reason a student decides to come to WSU is through personal contact with one of us at the university. You can continue to be an ambassador for WSU by:

- Staying informed of the progress and efforts of [Strategic Enrollment Management](#) (SEM) and share that information with those in your area.
- Collaborating with offices and programs at their recruitment and enrollment events.
- Talking to friends and family about the great things happening in your area and at WSU.
- Supporting the efforts of enrollment offices, online and WPCE when requested.

Thank you for all that you do to support SEM. It takes all of us to make sure current and prospective students have a great experience at WSU.

Thoughts or questions? Write to Rick Muma, interim provost, richard.muma@wichita.edu.

Diversity Update: Our diversity is our strength

Posted: Monday, April 23, 2018 Posted: 10:57:29 AM CT

April is Diversity Month. The WSU campus is filled with a rainbow of races and religions — all equal in every way. It doesn't matter if you don't understand them all or even know they exist, but it does matter that you accept them all and do not judge any of them as less than worthy. Shocker Nation – we are all in this together, and our ignorance of other's beliefs is no excuse for intolerance in any form.

The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement launched The Tenacious Ten in collaboration with Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness Program for Undergraduate Preparation (GEAR UP). The Tenacious Ten is a youth development program designed to educate, equip and empower young men with life skills in support of educational attainment of an undergraduate degree.

Under the leadership of Kevin Harrison, community engagement coordinator, these young men will be mentored and supported from high school through college. From self-efficacy to career exploration, The Tenacious Ten program was developed to address the needs and challenges faced by males from underrepresented populations in the greater community.



We are thrilled to support youth who have historically been underserved, and we appreciate the support of community volunteers and partners who are making an investment in the future of our youth. Over the next year, The Tenacious Ten will be active on campus to learn about the undergraduate experience while also giving back to others through community service projects.

As the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement staff cultivate new relationships, there will be a variety of upcoming opportunities for WSU faculty, staff and students to collaborate, and we look forward to engaging WSU and the greater community to achieve measurable results.

According to Robert F. Kennedy: “It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to ... the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility ... and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children's future.”

This sentiment underscores the interconnectivity of building community, and the Diversity and Community Engagement staff look forward to expanding dialogues and creating opportunities to bring the WSU community together.

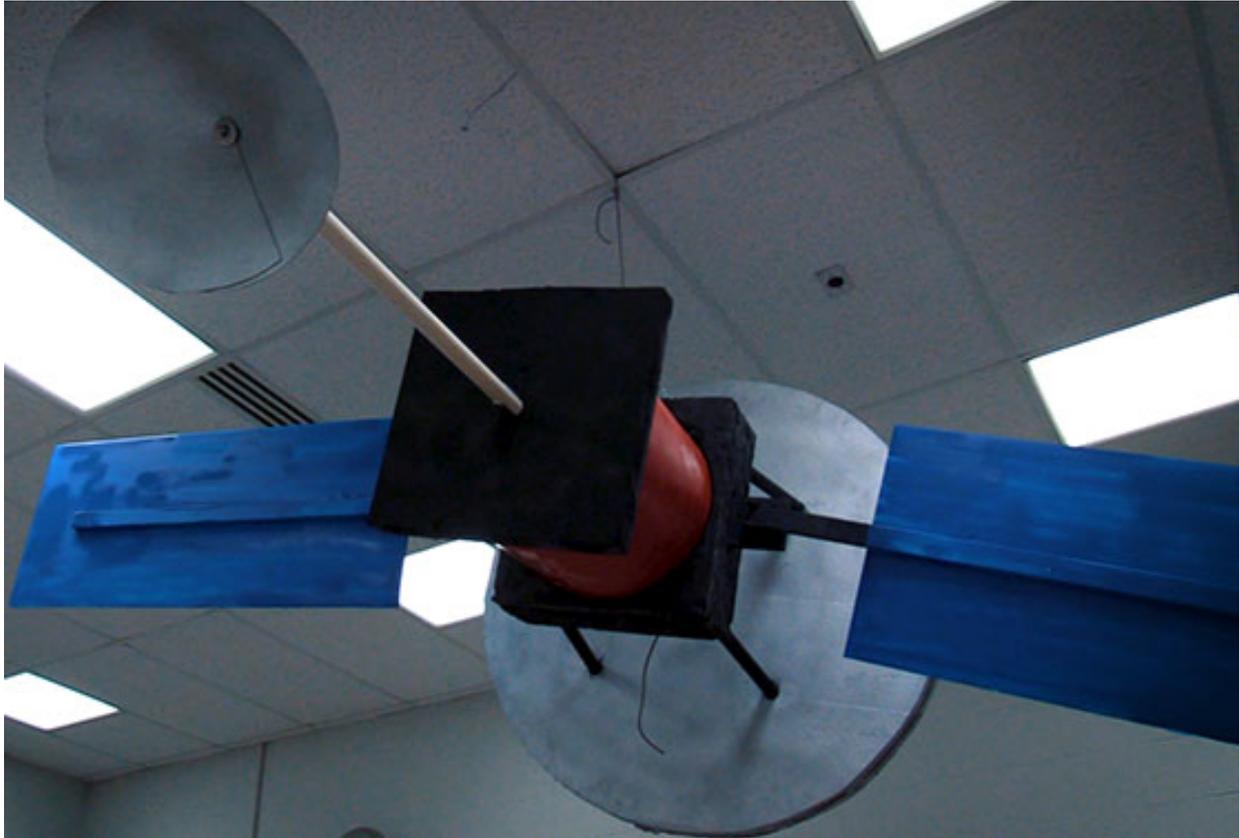
Shocker Pride!

Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle
Vice president, Diversity and Community Engagement

“Our diversity is our strength. What a dull and pointless life it would be if everyone was the same.” Angelina Jolie

Grant of the Month: Innovative concept could revolutionize space exploration

Posted: Monday, April 23, 2018 Posted: 10:57:46 AM CT



Wichita State University physics professor Nickolas Solomey has won one of NASA's coveted Innovation and Advanced Concept Awards (NIAC) for his research to create a neutrino detector for close sun orbit.

The award includes approximately \$125,000 over nine months to support initial definition and analysis of the concept.

Solomey's research focuses on the creation of spacecraft and detector technology capable of operating close to the sun. This technology is needed, he says, to study the sun's solar interior to better understand its future expected changes, as well as fundamental physics that involve the sun.

[» Read the full story below:](#)

Physics professor's innovative concept could revolutionize space exploration

- WSU physics professor Nickolas Solomey and graduate student Caleb Gimar are working on research to someday build a detector that could be flown near the sun.
 - The detector would revolutionize the way scientists study the sun and provide wonderful new insights into particle physics.
 - Solomey's research was boosted by an Innovation and Advanced Concept Award given by NASA.
-

Wichita State University physics professor Nickolas Solomey has won one of NASA's coveted Innovation and Advanced Concept Awards (NIAC) for his research to create a neutrino detector for close sun orbit.

The award includes approximately \$125,000 over nine months to support initial definition and analysis of the concept.

NASA selected 25 early-stage technology proposals that have the potential to transform future human and robotic exploration missions, introduce new exploration capabilities and significantly improve current approaches to building and operating aerospace systems.

“This is certainly very ambitious. We’re trying to do something that is somewhat unprecedented.”

–Caleb Gimar

Solomey's research focuses on the creation of spacecraft and detector technology capable of operating close to the sun. This technology is needed, he says, to study the sun's solar interior to better understand its future expected changes, as well as fundamental physics that involve the sun.

Along with NASA's immense capabilities, this could revolutionize the way in which scientists study the sun and provide wonderful new insights into particle physics, Solomey says.

“If we can take a very small neutrino detector, instead of these kiloton ones like we have here on Earth ... that will allow us to look directly into the core of the sun,” he says.

First-year physics graduate student Caleb Gimar, who is working alongside Solomey on the project, says this is an exceptionally innovative opportunity for him to be a part of.

“This is certainly very ambitious,” Gimar says. “We’re trying to do something that is somewhat unprecedented in the sense of trying to put a detector in the near solar environment.”

[» Learn more about Solomey's research.](#)

Guest article: Shocker PROUD

Posted: Monday, April 23, 2018 Posted: 11:22:25 AM CT



In conjunction with the university's strategic planning process, WSU has developed a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan to grow enrollment over the next three to five years. It will take a concerted effort by all of us in the WSU community to achieve the stated increase in enrollment. We all have to positively promote WSU, serve students and one another and ensure each student has an excellent experience at WSU.

To assist in the fulfillment of our goals, the university, through a campus-wide input process, has adopted Service Standards. These standards are things we can all do to create a welcoming environment for all who serve and are served at the university.

The standards are called Shocker PROUD, which stands for professional, responsive, open, understanding and dependable.

The student experience must be positive, timely and responsive, professional, and provide easy, helpful access to information and/or assistance by those best situated to provide the needed assistance.

Keep an eye out for continuing campus-wide communication about Shocker PROUD and upcoming training sessions this summer to help us deliver on our promise to the students of Wichita State and all of us who serve in the WSU community.

Judy Espinoza, human resources executive director

What I'm Reading: 'The Third Education Revolution'

Posted: Monday, April 23, 2018 Posted: 11:06:19 AM CT



The old methods of training America's workforce are no longer sufficient in the 21st-century economy. Instead, a new wave in education and training has arrived, one that is likely to be marked by continual training throughout a person's lifetime -- to keep current in a career, to learn how to complement rising levels of automation and to gain skills for new work.

This lifelong learning model means workers will likely consume their education in short spurts when needed, rather than as they do now, taking months or years to complete certificates and degrees.

» [Read the full article.](#)



President's Message: Farewells and beginnings

Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2018 Posted: 9:42:08 AM CT



I'm glad I had the opportunity to be with many of you recently at year-end faculty and Unclassified Professional assemblies and at graduation ceremonies. That is truly a special day for the graduates, their families and friends, and the university.

Higher education has its own seasons and significant change often comes in May and June. We say farewell to students and colleagues who have been important to us and congratulate others assuming new responsibilities.

As we turn toward summer, here are some final observations before this newsletter returns in August.

First generation students: [WSU's national recognition as a Social Mobility Innovator](#) is a great tribute to the work many of you have been involved in to make this a university that values inclusion and recognizes the importance of providing financial, academic and social bridges to success for first generation students

We can all be proud that the university's past, present and future are tied together by our primary role as the portal to a better life for generations of hardworking people.

Recognition by the Kansas Hispanic Educational and Development Foundation: In addition to national recognition of WSU's work with first generation students, we also received important recognition regarding our efforts to attract, educate and graduate Hispanic students from our state. This is an important and growing population and I am very proud of everyone who has stepped up to welcome these students to campus. Thank you!

Meetings with faculty and staff: I appreciated the opportunities the past several weeks to be a part of open meetings of Unclassified Professionals, faculty and the combined senates. I also greatly enjoyed hosting members of the newly elected Student Senate at a dinner at the President's Residence and look forward to working with them as we continue to work to enhance the quality of student life.

In conversations with all of these groups, I was struck by the importance of sustainability in everything that we do. We need to make decisions that will sustain our physical, intellectual, social, emotional and economic environments while assuring that all portions of the surrounding community of Wichita and southcentral Kansas advance as well.

New provost: Rick Muma may have seemed the unsurprising choice, but thanks to an excellent search process led by Werner Golling and Betty-Smith Campbell, the whole campus got a chance to hear from three highly capable candidates to head the university's largest division.

Homegrown chief academic officers are a relative rarity these days, so we are fortunate to be able to turn to someone with Rick's deep WSU experience and commitment to lead us during these unsettled times in higher education. I want to thank everyone who took part in this critical decision.

"Shock the World" campaign: I'm very pleased that the WSU Foundation staff and volunteers have made such great progress on the largest fundraising campaign in the university's history. Generations of students will benefit from the scholarships, facilities and programs supported by these contributions. If you have the ability and willingness to contribute, either now or through an estate gift, you can learn more here, <https://foundation.wichita.edu/areasToSupport.html>

Aug. 17 faculty / staff gathering: As has become our annual custom, we will gather all available faculty and staff the Friday afternoon before fall semester begins to talk about the year ahead and catch up on summer happenings. Please save 3-5 p.m. on your calendar that day.

Senior Toast and Commencement: Teri Hall and the Student Affairs staff brought us a new event that promises to become a tradition, a pre-graduation Toast to the graduating seniors (see photo above).

It was a beautiful afternoon and a rousing success, with well over a thousand students and guests present for the Champagne toast celebrating the graduates. And here's a toast to you, too, the staff and faculty of Wichita State. I appreciate all you do for our students, our colleagues and me.

If you have thoughts over the summer, I'll be checking my email regularly. Please write to me, president@wichita.edu.

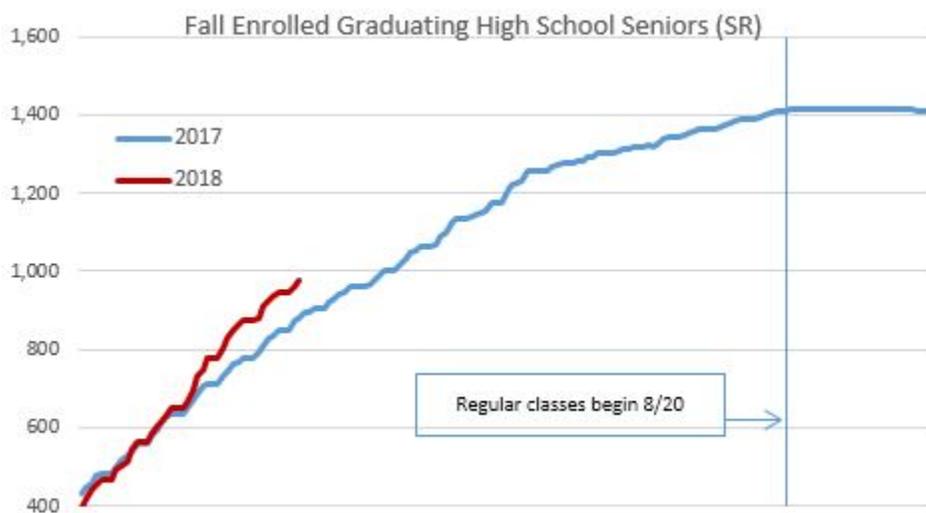
SEM Check-In: This year's progress

Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2018 Posted: 9:43:46 AM CT

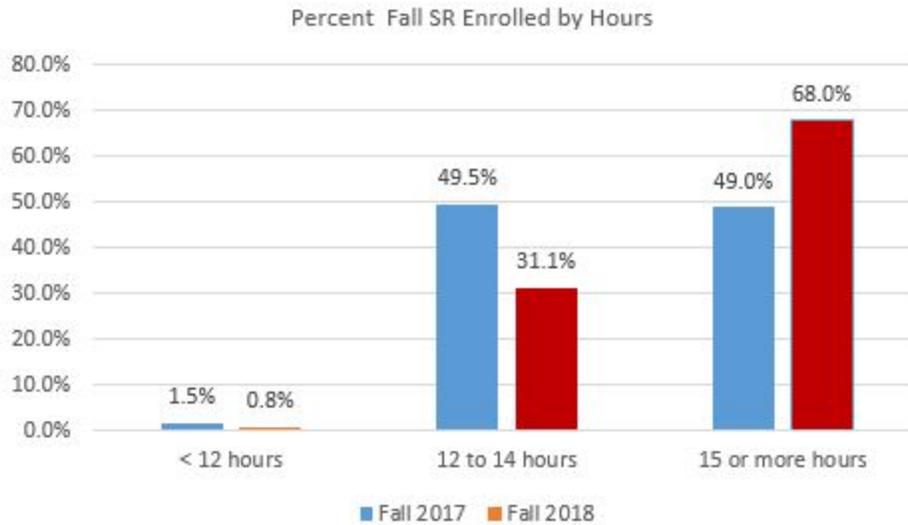
In conjunction with the University's Strategic Planning process, WSU has developed a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan for growth over the next three years. To stay informed on the progress toward our goals, each month we will provide the status of one of the goals and provide information for you to assist us in moving the goal forward.

This month we will shift our focus from what we accomplished last fall in relation to our SEM goals to the upcoming fall highlighting current enrollment trends among new graduating high school seniors and new transfer students, as well as efforts under way to encourage returning students.

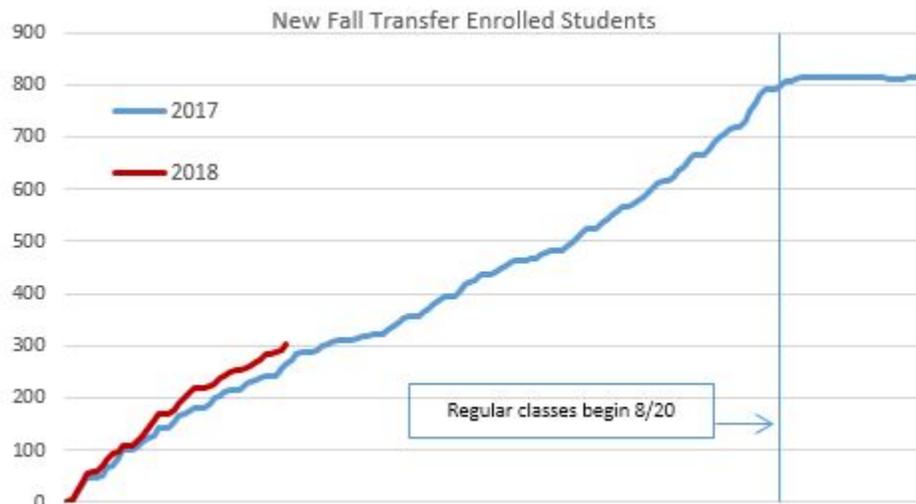
Fall registration for high school seniors began in early March; internally we refer to these students as SR. As of mid-May, we were up more than 90 new SRs over last year at this same time, an increase of more than 12 percent. This increase in enrollment reflects the increases we have seen over last year in the number of SR admits as part of our SR recruitment efforts.



While SRs normally enroll full-time (12 or more hours), studies have shown that enrollment at 15 or more hours leads to shorter time-to-degree completion and reduced overall degree cost. Accordingly, as part of our SEM initiatives, last fall we began encouraging SRs to enroll in 15 or more hours and have continued that initiative for fall 2018. As of mid-May, we have more than a 50 percent increase of SR students in 15 or more hours, with 68 percent of fall 2018 SRs in 15 or more hours compared to 31.1 percent last fall at this time.



Last fall we added a new SEM goal: “Increase enrollment of new fall transfers by 30 students yearly through fall 2020.” This year we have expanded our recruitment of transfer students including the addition of the online Transfer Gateway where prospective transfer students can see how their transfer coursework may apply to a WSU degree. The Gateway also allows them to connect with our new dedicated transfer specialist. As of mid-May, new transfer student enrollment was up more than 14 percent over last fall at this time, already exceeding the goal for fall 2018.



New students are only part of the story. We must also retain students. To help remind students to re-enroll for the fall term, we have a mix of efforts spanning large-scale communication campaigns to one-on-one departmental callings. For example, the SEM group has identified important time periods related to contacting students who haven’t enrolled, such as those listed below:

- Blackboard Call Campaign – June 19
- College Advising Offices – July 9
- Blackboard Call Campaign – July 31
- College Advising Offices – Aug. 8

What can you do?

While the above SEM contact efforts are made on a large scale, students respond best to outreach from campus areas and departments in which they are personally involved. We need each individual and unit to do their part - make calls, send emails, find personal and engaging ways to reach out to students who were enrolled in the spring 2018 semester but have not yet enrolled for fall 2018.

Retaining these students is a responsibility for each of us on this campus. If you need assistance with how you can help, contact Lisa Hansen at 978-7456 or lisa.hansen@wichita.edu.

Diversity Update: Carrying momentum into next year

Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2018 Posted: 9:42:30 AM CT

Greetings!

Congratulations, Shocker Nation, on another successful school year. This year was full of exciting events and accomplishments that make all of us Shocker Proud.

From the establishment of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement to the largest first-time freshmen class enrolled in WSU history, this year was full of energy and excitement, and we look forward to carrying this momentum into the next year. I am humbled and honored to serve as the vice president of Diversity and Community Engagement.

As we strive to cultivate and build community partnerships, I would like to thank Kevin Harrison, community engagement coordinator, and the Kansas Hispanic Education and Development Foundation (KHEDF) for its service to students in the Shocker community.



Last week, the KHEDF awarded 41 scholarships to Hispanic students. Out of 41 scholarships, 21 scholarships were awarded to students planning to attend Shocker Nation in the fall, and four students will be attending WSU Tech. This is outstanding news, and we are grateful these students have chosen to make Wichita State their home away from home. WSU was also named winner of the KHEDF 2018 Making a Difference Award.

Thank you to KHEDF for such a wonderful Scholars and Recognition Dinner. Your scholarships have provided students not only dreams, but an opportunity to pursue higher education.

I am also thankful for partnerships with Art That Touches Your Heart, USD 259, Greater Wichita Ministerial Leadership, National Pan-Hellenic Council and many others. These partnerships have been and continue to be vital to the ongoing success of the university and are key to ensuring underrepresented voices are heard and recognized throughout the campus community.

Lastly, I would like to say congratulations to Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for Student Affairs, special programs, on receiving the Urban League of Kansas Whitney M. Young

Leadership Award. For 50 years, Deltha has served Wichita State with distinction, and we applaud her for receiving this recognition.

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” Maya Angelou

Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle
Vice president, Diversity and Community Engagement

Grant of the Month: Composites research

Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2018 Posted: 9:42:49 AM CT

Waruna Seneviratne, senior research scientist and technical director of NIAR Composites and Structures, was awarded \$1.4 million from the Office of Naval Research.

The award will help fund a partnership with various government, industry and academic research units for collaborative research that has the potential to advance the understanding between the effects of defects and the functional performance of composite structures.

Because composites are made of several layers of fibers typically joined in varying directions, it can be difficult to determine how the material will perform over time and when damage is introduced.

Overly conservative assumptions are made for strength and fatigue life assessment without taking full advantage of the unique fatigue capabilities of composites. To design efficient composite structures and increase their use in the aerospace industry, engineers must gain a better understanding of the fundamentals of damage initiation and growth characteristics of composites.

The primary goal of this research is to develop a systematic approach, including the use of high-fidelity inspections techniques, such as X-ray computed tomography, for validating composite analysis methods to predict onset and damage propagation.

The research will also provide an opportunity for university researchers to develop advanced skills in conducting high-fidelity X-ray inspections and image reconstruction skills using advanced software packages.



What I'm Reading: 'Why companies and universities should forge long-term collaborations'

Posted: Thursday, May 17, 2018 Posted: 9:44:00 AM CT



In the past decade, there has been an explosion in research deals between companies and universities. Companies have been reducing their spending on early stage research for three decades and are increasingly turning to universities to perform that role.

And faced with stingier government support of academic research and calls for them to contribute more to their local economies, universities have been more receptive.

Both sides have become much more interested in forging long-term, collaborative relationships. But are there challenges facing both sides that could get in the way?

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