ServiceFest Offers Connections for Faculty & Students

This Wednesday, Jan. 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Career Services presents ServiceFest in the PUB MPR. More than just a showcase for volunteer opportunities, ServiceFest offers faculty and students the opportunity to explore placements for service-learning courses and to connect directly with community partners—more than 30 will be at EWU on Wednesday. If you are currently incorporating a service component into your classes, or thinking of doing so, I encourage you to stop by the PUB for ServiceFest or take your entire class so students attend as well.

R2R Goes Live in Martin Hall

January 3 has been circled in red on Professor Bill William’s calendar for months. That was the day that the new PSYC100 classes began—and a bit of Eastern history was made. The new classes are part of a national initiative called “Roadmap to Redesign”—R2R for short—that uses technology to not only improve student learning but also to save costs.

What makes the EWU R2R project exciting is that in addition to large-group lectures students also form cohorts of 12 students, led by a student mentor, for weekly seminar sessions. Online quizzes and learning modules further encourage a more engaged experience for students. “It’s all about giving students learning choices and engaging them in active learning,” says Williams, who has worked with the Provost and the Teaching & Learning Center to develop Eastern’s R2R pilot. It will be implemented in both Winter and Spring quarters with results shared nationally. At Eastern, the 10 introductory psychology classes of 100 students will now be reconfigured to four groups of 250, saving the department almost 60% in instruction costs. The savings remain in the department to support faculty research, curriculum development and service.

R2R is not for every classroom, but it has tremendous potential for large-enrollment courses. I’m excited that EWU is taking the lead in exploring the scholarship of teaching and learning.

To learn more, see the R2R article on the Provost’s website. Bill Williams and Larry Kiser are also happy to answer questions.

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Mark Your Calendars for March 4 Innovation Seminar

On Friday, March 4, the first in a regular series of Provost’s Academic Innovation Seminars will feature Sylvia Hurtado, director of the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA and a noted national speaker. She will share insights from her work assessing how universities prepare students to achieve the cognitive, social and democratic skills needed to participate in a diverse democracy. Her visit will include a poster session featuring EWU’s internal assessment projects and she will lead a faculty workshop. Watch for more details and plan to attend.

Task Forces Will Address Spokane Strategy, Assessment

“Strategic planning action” is not an oxymoron. Planning is important, but so is implementation. On our strategic planning website (www.ewu.edu/strategicplanning), you can read about the wide array of activities already in progress as a result of our institutional planning—from college-level planning efforts and learning communities to the Faculty Fellows and faculty development opportunities.

Two important initiatives that support strategic planning are new task forces formed to address our Spokane strategy and institutional assessment. The Spokane Higher Education Center Task Force is chaired by Dean Castille and is charged with making recommendations for assuring an appropriate EWU Spokane presence. The Task Force will advise on programs and support services currently housed at the Spokane Center, with a report due this spring. Members of the Task Force include: Phil Castille, Ron Dalla, Earl Gibbons, Shawn King, Jonathan Potter, Lynn Stephens and Michelle Whittingham.

The Provost’s Advisory Committee on Assessment and Accountability is currently being formed. I will ask the Committee to develop a framework for a comprehensive EWU assessment and accountability plan that will address the goals of the academic strategic plan and our vision for Eastern. Assessment is not only a requisite follow up to a strategic plan, but also an essential component of successful re-accreditation.
EWU-Bellevue Connection Continues to Grow

This month Earl Gibbons, executive director of the Division of Educational Outreach, traveled to Bellevue Community College to review furnishings and computer equipment for a growing EWU presence on the Bellevue campus. Current plans call for EWU faculty and staff from a number of colleges and administrative departments to use the leased facility, including staff from the Admissions Office, the EWU Foundation, and faculty from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the College of Business and Public Administration. Our growing presence in Bellevue is part of our ongoing strategy to increase recruitment of West-side students and to partner with two-year colleges.