Sylvia Hurtado speaks at 1st Academic Innovation Series Event March 4

How can higher education help to prepare future citizens for the challenges of living in a diverse democracy? What learning strategies best help students develop critical thinking and the ability to understand the perspectives of others? Sylvia Hurtado, director of UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute has been a national leader in assessing how colleges are preparing students for a diverse world. She will be at Eastern on Friday, March 4 to share her insights and provide a hands-on workshop for faculty. Her presentation is the first in the Provost’s Academic Innovation Series—which brings nationally recognized educators to campus to encourage dialogue on topics related to our mission.

Dr. Hurtado’s presentation is free and open to all faculty, staff and students. An Assessment Poster Session from 11:30-12:30 p.m. in Showalter Rotunda precedes her talk, “Preparing Students for Participation in a Diverse Democracy.” From 2:00-4:00 p.m. she will meet with faculty in a workshop to explore practical approaches to assessing student citizenship skills. **Seating is limited for the workshop: contact Theresa Martin by Feb. 25 at Theresa.martin@mail.ewu.edu to register.**

Reserve April 29 for Carolyn Jarmon

Mark Friday, April 29 for the second in the Provost’s Innovation Series—a presentation by Carolyn Jarmon of the National Center for Academic Transformation. She will talk about the national Roadmap 2 Redesign project that is improving students’ learning by using technology in large-group classes. Here at Eastern, Bill Williams is pioneering a new curriculum in Introductory Psychology. He will join Dr. Jarmon in exploring the implications of R2R for other departments and courses.

For more information, see [www.ewu.edu/x20570.xml](http://www.ewu.edu/x20570.xml).
One-time Funding for Equipment Allocated to Schools and Colleges
A half-million dollar pool has been set aside by President Jordan for one-time funding of EWU equipment needs. Each school and college was invited to submit a proposal and allocations have been made—in most cases the full request was honored. Funds will be used to underwrite everything from a Fine Arts Digital Lab to supplying Physical Education, Health & Recreation with new rafts for outdoor service-learning opportunities. The Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences also incorporated the proposal into its newly created three-year Equipment Plan, funding enough media/presentation carts for each of its programs. While this one-time allocation does not resolve Eastern’s ongoing new equipment and maintenance needs, it is a good step in the right direction.

Legislative Update: Performance Contract & Research Day
On February 4, Faculty Organization President Patty Chantrill and I traveled to Olympia to continue meetings with legislators around performance contracts. These conversations are ongoing; at the time no decisions have been made, although we have several indications that performance contracts will be on Governor Gregoire’s higher education agenda. While we believe that such contracts are not the only way to assure a quality education for Washington students, we do believe that it is important to help frame the conversation so that EWU priorities—such as funding for access and providing a quality education—can be part of the equation.

Representative Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney has set March 24 & 25 as Research Days in Olympia. EWU will be represented at the poster sessions and committee hearing. Ruth Galm is currently coordinating the creation of our posters and brochures that will tell the story of our strong student research and engaged community research—distinctive features of our mission.

Thanks also to the faculty and students who participated in Higher Education Day on Feb. 15. We were by far the most visible university presence in Olympia and represented Eastern well to our legislators.

Barbara Alvin & Lynn Briggs Co-chair Assessment Committee
The newly formed Provost’s Advisory Committee on Assessment and Accountability has been convened and will be co-chaired by Professor Barbara Alvin and Associate Dean Lynn Briggs. The Committee has been asked 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. You can read more details about the committee at www.ewu.edu/provost.

Creating the Bridges from Where We Are to Where We Want to Be
The great strategic planning guru J. Paul Getty once revealed his successful business strategy: Rise early, work hard, and strike oil. Eastern’s strategic planning Work Groups haven’t found black gold in the Cheney wheat fields—yet—but they have been working hard to create ideas for helping us reach our vision as an integrated and engaged university. On Feb. 24 the Work Groups met with
more than 40 faculty, students, staff and community members to outline their ideas, answer questions and gather feedback. They’ll then refine their proposals for campus-wide input at forums April 13 and 14. You can read their draft proposals at www.ewu.edu/strategicplanning and contact the groups directly with comments.

Faculty Fellows Have Questions; You’ve Got the Answers
Do not be surprised if you are handed a survey or buttonholed in a hallway. Both Sue Wright, Faculty Fellow for General Education and Galina Sinekopova, Faculty Fellow for Service Learning, are actively seeking faculty and staff input on their respective topics. Dr. Sinekopova has distributed a service-learning survey to assess current practice and needs across campus—I encourage you to respond. And Dr. Wright has been meeting with the Faculty Senate, Deans and other campus groups to discuss issues of general education with a goal to encouraging discussion of ways in which we can more fully engage students and integrate Gen Ed into the Eastern experience. Please contact them directly for more information.

Eastern’s Faculty Fellows Program is receiving national attention. I will join Patty Chantrill and Sally Winkle at a poster session at the AAHE conference in March to discuss the Fellows.

Get a Grip on TALONS
Implementation of Eastern’s new student information system—Banner—has begun. Through May, Project TALONS (Teaching, Analyzing, Learning, Optimizing, Networking and Serving) will be assessing Banner’s capabilities. Later this summer, faculty and staff will be involved in helping to align the potential of this powerful system with our existing processes and procedures. Check this month’s Now & Next newsletter for an informational insert on TALONS and the new website at www.ewu.edu/talons. During this phase of the launch, it is important to learn faculty concerns so I encourage you to contact Mark Baldwin or Erick Keating with questions, or e-mail talons@mail.ewu.edu.

Help Us Honor Our Community Partners
The Inland Northwest Service Learning Partnership (INSLP) is an intercollegiate collaborative resource design by and for the faculty, staff, student and community agencies in service-learning partnerships with EWU, Gonzaga, SCC, SFCC, Spokane Public Schools, WSU-Spokane and Whitworth. On April 26, INSLP is hosting a community partner recognition at Gonzaga to honor community partners and their agencies. We would like to recognize all the community partners who have worked with EWU faculty, students and staff with a certificate of appreciation. If you have a community partner you would like to invite to be recognized, send their name and address to Gini Hinch, ext. 2329 or e-mail vhinch@mail.ewu.edu.