Accreditation Process a Learning Experience
After two years of preparation, Eastern’s Accreditation Site visit is behind us and our accreditation was a success.

While we do not yet have the official report to be able to share details with you, we expect a draft of the Evaluation Team’s findings sometime next month, with the final report available later in the summer.

We do know that we can be proud of our self study and the site visit. Congratulations and thank you to the Accreditation Committee for all its work over the past many months and also to those of you who met with the Evaluation Team and contributed to our self study. I believe this process has helped us to look more closely at our strengths and at opportunities for change, and that we will continue to learn much from the report’s analysis. Bravo, Eastern!

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Reserve May 12 to Rearrange Your Mental Furniture
Dr. Sam Wineburg, a cognitive psychologist from Stanford University, has been called the “pre-eminent North American researcher in history education.” If you’ve read his recent book *Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts* you know he’s also a provocative thinker about contemporary liberal education.

Dr. Wineburg will be at Eastern on **Friday May 12** to help lead a campus conversation on liberal learning as part of the Provost’s Academic Innovation Series’ focus on general education. You’re invited to attend what will surely be a fascinating afternoon. His presentation begins at 1 pm in Tawanka 215, culminating a day that also includes a discussion with Dean Vickie Shields on general education from 10-11 am, and an all-day showcase on the work of Eastern’s General Education Review Group.

Dr. Shields helped to lead general educational renewal at Bowling Green State University and she’ll discuss what she learned as we begin a year-long look at change here at Eastern. For more information, watch your mail, e-mail and see www.ewu.edu/provost.
Thanks for 41 Strategic Planning Pre-Proposals
Forty-one pre-proposals were received for the 2006-07 Strategic Planning Pool, presenting the Strategic Planning Council with an interesting dilemma: how to select a group of finalists from among a field of strong submissions. This year’s proposals ranged from programs to enhance student success in math to providing a campus film series. The Council has narrowed down the proposals to 26 and finalists will develop full proposals by May 31. Thanks to all faculty and staff who worked so hard to create such strong proposals. Read more about the grants at www.ewu.edu/strategicplanning.

What About This Year’s Grants?
About $270,000 was awarded this year to 15 projects in support of Eastern’s strategic plan and they are already underway. Students Nicholas Russ and Tekldet Andeberham coordinated a very successful evening with former Black Panther David Hilliard on Feb. 28. The “Difficult Dialogues” program organized 18 presentations during February and March. Four responders from the Writers’ Center have been trained as advisors for new and transfer students, enriching Eastern’s retention efforts. The Spokane Guilds’ School has been selected as the nonprofit that will benefit from a design competition by area artists as part of an outreach project organized by student Lance Kissler. And Dr. Prakash Bhuta has enlisted five other faculty in introducing “clicker” technology into their classrooms. We are actively working toward our strategic planning goal of becoming a more engaged and integrated campus.

Doing Something About Diversity
There is a reason they’re called Diversity Action Work Sessions. They’re not about more talking about diversity. They’re about taking action to create change. In May, the President’s Advisory Committee on Diversity is convening two Work Sessions to address issues identified at the December Hearing. On Thurs. May 4 the session will focus on issues of concern for faculty and staff. On Thurs. May 18 the session will address learning and community culture. Both sessions need strong involvement by faculty and I encourage you to attend one or both—and to support your students’ attendance. Both Action Work Sessions are from 1:00-3:30 pm in PUB 263 (and cookies will be served!).

Team to Help Eastern Tackle Enrollment Challenges
It’s an increasingly competitive world out there. With new four-year universities coming online from the Tri-Cities to Tacoma, attracting and retaining students to Eastern is essential to our institutional success. To that end I have formed an ongoing Enrollment Management Team, co-chaired by Interim Dean for Graduate & Undergraduate Studies Larry Briggs and Tom Hawley, Assistant Professor of Government. The team—composed of faculty, administrative staff and a student representative—will identify resources to assist faculty and staff across campus in student recruitment and retention, and will also propose strategies to address current enrollment challenges. Vice Provost Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted will be the administrative liaison for retention efforts at Eastern. While the team’s efforts will be important, it is faculty, working one-on-one to engage students, who make the difference. I encourage you to continue to look for ways in which you can invite students to Eastern and help them succeed when they are here.
Symposium Getting Bigger and Better
This year’s 9th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, scheduled for May 17, promises to be one of Eastern’s biggest and best celebrations of student research, scholarship and creative activity. Students, faculty and staff are invited to stop by Monroe Hall between 8 am and 5 pm for oral presentations, an interdisciplinary poster session and artistic performances and displays. My thanks to the many faculty mentors who give countless hours to supporting student research and discovery at Eastern. For more information, see www.ewu.edu/researchsymposium or call 359-6826.

Your University. Your Voice.
It will take only about 5 minutes, but you could have a huge impact on Eastern’s future. You will soon be seeing information around campus about a new online survey launched April 24 to assess Eastern’s image, drive enrollment strategies and inform our new president. It is being targeted to 27,000 students, alumni and friends of Eastern, as well as faculty and staff, and is designed to provide us with the data we need to reach out more effectively. Please take just a few minutes to add your comments. And did I mention you could win an iPod for doing so? Go to the EWU homepage to link to the survey or watch for it arriving in your email box.

Pakistani Educators Visit Eastern
Twelve Pakistan teachers will be studying on our campuses in Cheney and Spokane this month, as part of a State Department program designed to improve the educational and economic conditions of women and young girls along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border. The participants will be introduced to new methodologies and teaching techniques. They also will work with EWU Economics faculty to design new curricula and supporting materials to train other teachers. Please welcome them to Eastern.