



The Road to STATE'S REAFFIRMATION 2015



Resources to Fulfill WVSU's Mission

As we learn more about the reaffirmation of accreditation each week in *The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015*, we will examine how select elements of West Virginia State University (WVSU) campus life and culture interact with the Self-Study Report. It is essential that the University's resources, structures and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future. As a result, let us briefly examine resources to fulfill the mission at West Virginia State University.

Even under challenging economic times, WVSU maintains a resource base, strategically allocated to fulfill the University's mission. Budgetary planning and processes are detailed, which demonstrate the University has the fiscal resources to achieve its goals. WVSU's organizational and governance structures speak to the enduring culture of collaboration that guides the University's strategic planning and operations. WVSU strives for overall institutional improvement through the acquisition and analysis of performance data, which is continually used to guide operational enhancement. The University will continue to advance efforts of institutional effectiveness through improved availability and electronic archiving of documents related to collecting, organizing and accessing data at the program, department and institutional levels.

WVSU works diligently to assure its resources, structures and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission. As experienced by many other institutions, fiscal constraints complicate the ability to respond to challenges and opportunities. However, WVSU has responded to challenging times and is continually working and improving to, in the words of President Brian O. Hemphill, "become the most student-centered, research and teaching, land-grant University in the state of West Virginia and beyond." Standard fiscal and human resource allocations, as well as needs for improved infrastructure and technology, will continue to play significant roles in current and future planning, as WVSU continues its history of institutional improvement through systematic and integrated planning tied increasingly to the University mission.

Strengths

- WVSU recognizes the importance of continued capital improvements, even during financially difficult times, and displays resourcefulness and creativity in the funding of these improvements.
- WVSU is proactively increasing recruitment and retention efforts and strategically identifying program offerings that will generate revenue and develop a larger student base.
- WVSU has embarked upon an \$18 million Capital Campaign to support its core mission.
- The Board of Governors (BOG) consists of accomplished individuals with diverse professional backgrounds. This diversity helps the BOG to remain knowledgeable about various aspects of the University functions. The BOG is active and involved. It took a lead role during the transition of administration at WVSU in 2012.
- In general, communications among the members of various constituencies at WVSU are detailed, open and clear. Questions raised at various forums, especially at Faculty Senate meetings, are answered in detail and with clarity.



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- The collaboration among various groups has improved and produced remarkable results. Examples include Vision 2020, improvement in enrollment, online education and the Self-Study document.
- The University's planning process is one where planning and budget activities, throughout every level of the organization, are coordinated and driven by the University's vision and mission and one in which appropriate input from stakeholders is factored into resource allocation decisions.
- The University has processes and strategies in place to evaluate and revise, as needed, the goals set forth in the strategic plan.

Challenges and Opportunities

- WVSU's reserve funds were depleted as result of the separation of the community and technical college. The University needs to set specific goals and timelines for the rebuilding of the reserve fund.
- The University should implement a systematic process for across-the-board and merit raises in order to competitively attract and retain qualified faculty.
- Although there are many forums for interaction and collaboration at WVSU in financial planning and allocations, the University constituents are not taken into confidence. WVSU previously utilized a budget advisory committee with membership from various constituencies. Such a committee is needed to keep the University constituents informed about the rationale and logic of planning and allocation of finances.
- Although much progress has been made in the past year in updating the WVSU website, it needs a major review because it is still difficult to find some information about very important groups and processes at WVSU. Examples include the lack of information about the Program Review process, committee or schedule and current minutes from WVSU Classified Staff meetings. In addition, many website URLs are long and cumbersome to use on a program's brochure. University Relations and Operations produces shorter URLs for brochures when asked to do so, but the website's naming conventions and file structure should be reviewed so that such manual intervention is not required.
- The University should develop a technology master plan that addresses technology needs of all academic programs in order to maintain and further develop state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities.

For more information about The Road to State's Reaffirmation 2015, please click [here](#) to discover in-depth information about the process, read the University's Self-Study Report, and more!

For questions or comments regarding the University's reaffirmation of accreditation process or the self-study report, please send all inquiries and information to reaffirmation@wvstateu.edu or call (304) 204-4300.