

# WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Sabah Randhawa, President  
**DATE:** August 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Introductions and Recognitions  
**PURPOSE:** Information Item

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Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services will introduce the following people who are beginning their service with the University.

- Robert Squires, Vice Provost for Outreach and Continuing Education
- Shelli Soto, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
- Sislana Ledbetter, Executive Director for Counseling Health and Wellness

## **Robert Squires, Vice Provost for Outreach and Continuing Education**

Robert Squires is Vice Provost of Outreach and Continuing Education (OCE), leading the team that extends Western's diverse educational opportunities throughout the state and beyond. In collaboration with the Provost's office, campus-based partners, community colleges, and partners in the business community, OCE provides non-credit, online, international, and location-based programming that allow diverse individuals access to high-quality education. Robert joins Western from the University of Montana, where he received his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. His research has been focused on providing learning opportunities that serve the needs of diverse individuals as well as supporting faculty in the design and development of rewarding online and web-enhanced programs. Prior to his senior role in the School of Extended and Lifelong Learning and serving as Director of UOnline, Robert served as Director of Instructional Design and Assistant Director for the English Language Institute at the University of Montana. Robert holds Masters degrees in English Literature and Teaching English as a Second Language from the University of Aberdeen and University of Edinburgh, respectively.

## **Shelli Soto, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management**

Shelli Soto began her career in higher education administration at the University of Texas School of Law in 1994 after completing her B.A. in economics at the University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. at the University of Texas School of Law. With her early work in admissions and recruitment, she became a leader among law school admissions professionals. She became known for innovative recruitment work and then naturally expanded her interests and work into retention, student services, and enrollment management issues more broadly.

Over the course of more than 20 years, she has held a number of leadership positions and been granted ever-increasing responsibilities. She worked on enrollment management issues as Assistant Vice Provost at Arizona State University and served as Executive Associate Dean of Students and Chief of Staff at ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, as well as Interim Dean. While at ASU, she worked with stakeholders across the university to evaluate and advance graduate enrollment, recruitment, and admissions efforts and processes. In that role, she also worked with committees and leadership, setting policy and designing strategy for undergraduate enrollment, admissions, recruitment, and financial aid and scholarship. She has experience leading in enrollment services, admissions, financial aid and scholarships, retention, marketing, recruitment, student life, advising, transfer student enrollment, career services, alumni relations, events, new student orientation, and centers and programs.

She has been a leader at one of the most entrepreneurial and innovative institutions in the country. At a highly selective institution, she engaged in transformative work to ensure the enrollment of diverse classes during the anti-affirmative action movement of the 90's. She used that energy and innovation on diversity efforts to direct ground-breaking pipeline programs for one of the premier Hispanic Serving Institutions in the country.

Shelli has been honored many times for her work. ASU's Disability Resource Center awarded her the Intergroup Relations Service Award for work with students who are differently abled, and the State Bar of Arizona Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law named her as their 2009 honoree for outstanding achievement in advancing equal opportunity. ASU's Indian Legal Program honored her in a blanket ceremony in 2015, and in 2001, the Texas Senate personally recognized her work in Resolution 231.

### **Sislena Ledbetter, Executive Director for Counseling, Health, and Wellness**

Sislena Grocer Ledbetter, Ph.D. is a social psychologist, researcher, lecturer, author and life coach. She received a Bachelor's degree in psychology from North Carolina Central University, - Magna Cum Laude. She earned with honors, her Master's and Doctoral degrees in psychology from Howard University. Her post-graduate studies include educational leadership training at Georgetown University Graduate School of Professional Studies and Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She has received several fellowships and internships including Intern during the Clinton administration.

Dr. Ledbetter has held higher education leadership roles including Director of Counseling and Student Development and Associate Vice President of Student Development where within four years, she wrote and attracted more than 5 million dollars in grant funds for behavioral health. She is currently teaching in the Psychology Programs at the University of the District of Columbia and George Washington University in Washington DC. Dr. Ledbetter has written and attracted millions of dollars in behavioral health grants to build peer-led programs addressing HIV AIDS, substance abuse, suicide prevention, and domestic violence. Her research interests include exploring wellness, power, and politics for women of color in leadership roles in the workplace, exploring factors that enhance healthy intimate relationships in the Black community. She is the host of the DC Cable Television program "A Healthy Mind," where she interviews guest on topics related to mental health.