WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: President Sabah Randhawa on behalf Provost Brent Carbajal
DATE: October 13, 2017
SUBJECT: International Students Initiative
PURPOSE: Discussion Item

Purpose of Submittal:

In this information session, Provost Carbajal will provide an overview of an initiative designed to help WWU not only increase its international student enrollment, but also to broadly benefit the student experience we foster. The benefits of this public-private partnership are far reaching and impactful. A general summary of what “pathway programs” are, as well as specifics about a uniquely Western implementation of such a program, will illustrate planned programming and opportunities for campus.

Background:

Western has long articulated support for “internationalization” as a dearly held value and priority for campus. Implementation of this priority has taken many forms over the years, but one area that has simply not seen a lot of advancement has been international student enrollment. Beginning in AY2015-16, Western began exploring options for partnerships that might assist the university in realizing more of its internationalization goals, international enrollment being one of them. Currently, our international student enrollment stands at approximately 1%, abysmally low. Given current international and national political realities, a partnership with a pathways provider affords an excellent opportunity to move forward on an important priority.

Strategic Questions:

1. Are Trustees familiar with pathways programs and how they operate?

2. Are Trustees aware of all the ways that this type of initiative can benefit many aspects of the Western community and the education we provide?