

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: President Sabah Randhawa

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 2018

SUBJECT: **Approval of the Western Washington University Strategic Plan**

PURPOSE: Action Item

Purpose of Submittal:

Western's Strategic Plan provides a roadmap and vision for our future. Led by a university-wide Strategic Planning Committee, the process actively and extensively engaged the university community and relevant external stakeholders in the development of the plan.

The plan recognizes that higher education in the U.S. faces significant challenges, including affordability and student debt, stagnating graduation and retention rates, growing achievement gaps for historically underrepresented groups, public skepticism of the value of college education, globalization and the role of technology, and diminishing state and federal investments in higher education. It is informed by the Washington Student Achievement Council's Roadmap Report on education attainment goals and the projected workforce trends in the state. Most of all, this plan reaffirms our commitment to higher education as a public good which should be accessible to all qualified students.

The Strategic Plan (SP) articulates four goals to advance Western:

1. Provide a transformative education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and based on innovative scholarship, research, and creative activity.
2. Advance a deeper understanding of, and engagement, with place.
3. Foster a caring and supportive environment where all members are respected and treated fairly.
4. Pursue justice and equity in its policies, practices, and impacts.

The strategic goals and objectives make good on our commitment to an equitable and transformative education for all students, and on our commitment to increasing Western's impact in Washington and beyond. Three unifying and recurring ideals emerge from the four goals and associated objectives—Advancing Inclusive Success, Increasing Washington Impact, and Enhancing Academic Excellence. These ideals are the essential pillars of institutional mission fulfillment and represent our commitment to each other, to our communities, and to the state of Washington.

Proposed Motion:

MOVED that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the Western Washington University Strategic Plan 2018-2024 as presented to replace the 2010 University Mission, Vision and Strategic Goals.