



A Letter from the Chancellor

Susan and I have had an absolutely wonderful first year at Western Carolina University. Our experiences since we arrived in Cullowhee on June 18, 2011, have affirmed our first impressions of a university whose staff and faculty are devoted to the students, of a university community committed to the region it serves, and of a wonderfully unique place which is special beyond measure. We love Western and count it a privilege to live and serve here.

This past year has been one of extraordinary progress. Allow me to recount just a few of the highlights:

- Initial steps to create a more open and transparent campus community, including the implementation of the Chancellor's Leadership Council, an institution-wide leadership group designed to facilitate open communication and input into decision-making; an open budgeting process; and a strategic planning process led by representatives of both internal and external stakeholders.
- Receipt of final approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree, a program which has the potential to be a profound game-changer in Western North Carolina's economic development.
- The decision to consolidate the majority of Western's Asheville-based academic programs at Biltmore Park which is located in the heart of the I-26 growth corridor and which thus positions Western to grow its enrollment substantially while meeting the graduate and professional program needs of this important segment of Western's service region.
- Western's placing sixth nationally in terms of the number of undergraduate students whose research was accepted for presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Western was sixth among the 326 colleges and universities who sent students to this year's conference, and this was the seventh consecutive year in which WCU placed among the top 10 universities in the nation at this conference.
- Significant steps to reduce the amount of ongoing expenses covered by one-time funding in the university's budget.
- A remarkable set of installation week activities designed by faculty, staff, student, administrator, and community representatives to celebrate Western Carolina University and to strengthen the university's ties with the communities it serves.
- An athletics program renaissance highlighted by the hiring of an excellent Athletic Director (Randy Eaton) and excellent head football coach (Mark Speir); the men's basketball team's incredible run at the Southern Conference championship; Coach Danny Williamson's being named Southern Conference coach of the year for the 29th time; first-year Coach Karen Glover's taking WCU's volleyball team to the Southern Conference tournament for the first time in six years and being named the Southern Conference coach of the year; WCU alumnus' Manteo Mitchell's winning the gold for the United States at the Indoor World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, earlier this year; and the baseball team's sweep of Clemson this season.

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Notes from the Chair – Departing Words

BY: JASON LAVIGNE

As we prepare to send out this last Staff Senate Newsletter during my term as Chair I feel it's important to report to the staff here at Western what your Staff Senate has accomplished this year. I feel this is important because we, as a body, are accountable to you. I have highlighted some of our major accomplishments this year below.

1. We have continued to build our relationships with both the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association. We have collaborated on many efforts and have worked together to help further the mission of the university.
2. We partnered with the Faculty Senate to develop the WCU Suggestion Box, which gave faculty and staff the opportunity to offer anonymous suggestions to improve the WCU community.
3. We established this newsletter as a way to keep you informed about what's happening within the university.
4. We represented staff on the University Budget Advisory Council and gave staff a voice in the new budget process.
5. We represented you in the strategic planning process and had direct input into the 'Invest in Our People' strategic direction of the new strategic plan.
6. We represented staff in the hiring process of important leadership positions such as the search for the new provost.
7. We raised enough funds to provide two \$1,000 scholarships to family members of WCU staff.
8. We continue to represent staff on the Chancellor's Leadership Council.



Jason LaVigne

This year we set some goals for ourselves: Build Community, Impact Morale, Increase Visibility, and Increase our Influence. In looking at the above list I feel comfortable in saying we have met the goals we set for ourselves.

Beginning in July, the Staff Senate will be led by the very capable Caden Painter from Facilities Management. I will remain a member of the Staff Senate as an officer in the UNC Staff Assembly. I look forward to seeing where Caden takes the Senate next year.

I also wanted to use this last article to say thank you to a few people who have been a great help this year. First, thank you to every member of the Staff Senate! We would have never accomplished the things we have this year without everyone's participation. Dr. Erin McNelis, Chair, Faculty Senate, I appreciate the way you have always kept the staff in mind this year and worked to create an inclusive environment between the Senates. Shawna Young, as Secretary of the Staff Senate you are the one who keeps the organization going and we would not have been as successful without all of your hard work. TJ Eaves, President, Student Government Association, you represented the students well and I look forward to seeing what you accomplish in the future. My supervisor Akum Jamir, thank you for putting up with all the meetings and rescheduling I've had to do this past year. Chancellor Belcher, your excitement, energy, and genuine appreciation for the staff of this university made it very easy for us to reach our goals this year and, on behalf of the Staff Senate, I thank you. Lastly, thank you to the staff of WCU for the opportunity you gave me to serve in this capacity. I have done things this year I NEVER thought I would do and I have to say it's been the most challenging but most fun year in my, now, 13 years at Western. Western has a bright future ahead of it and I look forward to being a part of it.



Caden Painter

2012-2013 Scholarship Recipients

BY: WILL SHIVERS | *Chair, Scholarship Committee*

The Staff Senate Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012-2013 Staff Senate Scholarship. Christopher “Adam” Ray, a senior majoring in Social Sciences, Education and History, and Megan Boland, a freshman English major, were selected for their outstanding academic performance, exemplary leadership roles, and service to the community. Both recipients will receive \$1,000 for the coming academic year.

The Scholarship Committee held several fundraising efforts throughout the year — the largest being participation in the WNC Indoor Yard Sale sponsored by the Jackson County Arts Council. Due to the generosity of the WCU community, the Staff Senate was able to raise nearly \$1,000 for the Scholarship from the sale of items donated by employees.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to the children and dependents of WCU Staff members. Students who are children of SPA and EPA non-faculty employees, and who will be attending WCU in the upcoming year, are eligible to apply for the Staff Senate Scholarship.

More information about the Staff Scholarship, including ways to contribute, is available at <http://www.wcu.edu/12665.asp>.



Christopher “Adam” Ray

A letter from the Chancellor

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This has been a very good year for our university, and it is not over yet. Indeed, before the end of the fiscal year, I anticipate the conclusion of three significant university endeavors: the hiring of a new provost, the completion of Western’s new strategic plan, and receipt of the final report from the Millennial Initiative Select Committee. Stay tuned!

Next year promises to be another very full year as Western continues to gain momentum in pursuit of our vision for its future and for the region we serve in the western part of our state. We will continue to build and rebuild relationships with the communities we serve. We will open both the new Health and Human Science Building in Cullowhee and the Biltmore Park facilities in South Asheville. We will begin a process of program prioritization and other studies designed to seek out efficiencies. We will launch unit-based strategic planning processes designed to coordinate with the university’s new plan. We will begin a comprehensive campus master planning process designed to guide us in the development of the campus with specific attention to new buildings, renovations, transportation, information technology, utilities, energy efficiency, and green space. We will work to build an even stronger enrollment management infrastructure. Next year will be another great year as Western pursues excellence.

Such accomplishments, though, are not possible without the people of the university. And Western’s people are a remarkable group. I have never experienced such devotion among staff and faculty to their university, to their students, and to the success of both. And so I thank you for what you do, for your contributions to the Western Way, knowing that without you, Western would only be a shadow of the university it is.

Go CATS!

Sincerely yours,
David Belcher
Chancellor



2012 Staff Senate Elections

Staff Senate nominations and elections were held in March and April and eight new senators were seated at the May 2012 meeting. Their senate membership will officially begin in July with May and June serving as an orientation period for the new senators. The new senators will serve a two-year term. The Staff Senate also voted in a new leadership team for the 2012-2013 academic year at the May meeting. Please join us in welcoming our new senators and leadership team!

NEW SENATORS

Paula Carnes-Ashe, *School of Nursing*

Michelle Cooper, *Counseling and Psychological Services*

Wiley Danner, *Facilities Management*

Pam DeGraffenreid, *University Bookstore*

Phyllis Franks, *University Center*

Leah Hampton, *Writing and Learning Commons*

Robin Hitch, *Hunter Library*

Amy McKenzie, *Philosophy & Religion*

Jen Nickel, *Center for Service Learning*

Joseph Philpott, *Office of the Provost*

David Rathbone, *Facilities Management*

Andy Voelker, *IT*



2012 – 2013 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Caden Painter, *Chair*

Robin Hitch, *Vice Chair*

Shawna Young, *Secretary*

Paula Carnes-Ashe, *Treasurer*

David Rathbone, *Parliamentarian*

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING SENATORS

As we welcome our new senators, it is important to thank those who have served on the Staff Senate for the last two years. They have given their time and energy to make WCU a better place and to serve their colleagues. We thank the following people for their service:

Mike Corelli, *Office for Leadership and Student Involvement*

Keith Corzine, *Residential Living*

William Frady, *IT*

Sheila Frizzell, *School of Music*

Homer Harris, *Facilities Management*

David Porter, *University Police*

Kat Prindiville, *Residential Living*

Carrie Shuler, *Residential Living*

Jeff Tatham, *IT*

Walter Turner, *Student Community Ethics*

