

## *Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence*

Response to "Living Up To Our Educational Commitments: What Makes Western Unique," by Mike Malone, 11/1/92

### **Pittillo, Berea College, & WCU**

I very much enjoyed Mike Malone's opinion piece for November, in part because I feel that I have had personal experiences that corroborate what he claims about WCU. I was an undergraduate at Berea College, an institution with a well-recognized record of academic excellence. However, I feel that I arrived there as a 4 and managed to graduate as a 7 1/2, mainly because I was willing to work hard and had very cooperative and dedicated instructors. When I came to Western in 1966, I noted many students with backgrounds similar to mine and this pattern continues at WCU today. In 1966, I also found in the biology faculty at WCU an attitude and determination toward teaching that was similar to the one I had met at Berea, and I still find that many of our colleagues across the university hold to the same ideals, commitment, and dedication toward students. This is not to take away from faculty efforts and contributions to other areas of research and service, for looking over the accomplishments of the Biology Department bears out these contributions very clearly. So while I might have some reservation about the total uniqueness of WCU, I certainly agree that the real values, though not unique to our institution, are very much a part of what we really are all about.

**Dan Pittillo, Biology**

### **Editor's Note**

We were delighted to receive Dan's response but disappointed that we did not receive others. We believe very strongly that the response feature of the **Forum** is its truly distinguishing, valuable, and even unique feature. Many institutions have one-way newsletters, but ours, with its potential for public dialogue, seems unique in its attempt to create the possibility of real interchange and community spirit. Do you enjoy reading your colleague's responses? Do you agree that the responses are a valuable feature? Do you have any suggestions for increasing the number of responses so that we have a truly lively dialogue and forum every month? Please send your comments and suggestions to Terry Nienhuis at the FCTE.

