



# PRESIDENTIAL *News*

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## UWF Launches Program Prioritization

UWF is launching program prioritization. As you may know Dr. Robert Dickeson, a higher education consultant, president emeritus of the University of Northern Colorado, and former senior vice president of Lumina Foundation for Education, visited campus October 8-9 to help us get started. Bob's book, *Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services*, has served as a guiding tool for many institutions that are working through this important process. This approach includes seven phases of prioritization which I believe will be an excellent road map for UWF as we move toward implementation of Academic Visioning and the new Strategic Plan. Further, Dr. Dickeson is a leading national expert and will help us through our prioritization.

Our goal is to examine our entire university, including academic, administrative and service units. To that end, we will set up two teams: a program review team for academic programs and a program review team for administrative units. Additionally we will bring together a small group to serve as process facilitators. We will soon begin taking nominations for these teams and invite you to nominate yourself or a colleague. We will also soon launch a website dedicated to this initiative.

## Student Retention is Your Responsibility



Student retention is everyone's business and responsibility. It is not the work of a few. Retaining students at every level takes each of us working together

## Diversity and Inclusion

I am delighted that UWF's campus is more diverse than at any other time in our history. And we must integrate diversity and inclusion into the fabric of our organization.

As mentioned in my last newsletter; over the summer we developed a short term 2012-13 diversity plan and are now working on implementation.

to ensure all students have a quality experience at UWF, and it is more important than ever. The Florida Board of Governors is moving toward a funding model based on outcomes such as graduation rates, retention rates, and time to degree. Our rates are among the lowest in the state. We can and must do better.

I want to thank the faculty who participated in our early warning program this Fall, making the Early Warning Response rate a record 96%. Just over 300 freshman students were identified to potentially be experiencing academic difficulty. These students are now seeing their advisers who will help identify an appropriate course of action toward student success.

Additionally, UWF has set up a retention team. This team, the Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) is working with UWF faculty to conduct research regarding reasons for non-return of our students; they are auditing systems and process that could be problematic for retention; and they are reaching out to faculty and students through newsletters, direct emails, and banners on campus.



I am pleased to report that my new President's Policy Council on Diversity and Inclusion has now met twice. Our first meeting focused on bringing everyone up to speed on our short term plans, and asking for input on hiring a new Chief Diversity Officer. Our second meeting focused on sharing data about all the activities UWF currently does around diversity and inclusion as well as, minority retention and graduation rates.

This spring we will conduct a search to hire a new Chief Diversity Officer who will be responsible for working with the Policy Council on Diversity to develop a comprehensive diversity and inclusion plan for UWF. The Chief Diversity Officer will report to the Provost and will be a member of the President's Cabinet.

## Fall Festivities

And then there's just good, old fashioned fall fun. We've had a great number of campus festivities already this year, including:

- The grand opening of the \$16.8 million College of Business Education Center, featuring state-of-the-art, high-tech classrooms, computer labs and other learning facilities.
- My State of the University Address featured a look at the past four years and our plans for the future, followed by a delicious BBQ lunch where more than 600 people were served.



- Homecoming Week saw terrific enthusiasm by organizers and student participants. Events ranged from our annual Pep Rally to tailgating to a huge campus bonfire. Many thanks to the 18 departments and organizations who helped organize these events.
- Our third annual Family Weekend was a smashing success, with an estimated 350 participants. Families were able to participate in educational sessions, open houses, and social events that gave them the chance to meet UWF faculty, staff, students and other families.
- We also formally celebrated our purchase of the Scenic Hills Country Club. Located next to campus, we feel this facility will allow us to expand student opportunities in selected academic programs. We have 150 students with majors and minors in hospitality, resort management and recreation who need both internships and field experience. Scenic Hills will provide the opportunities our students need; plus, the club provides an ideal venue for intercollegiate golf training and competition, fundraising events and tournaments.

Stay tuned. The best is yet to come at UWF!

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