

Maltalk

EWU to offer State's First Undergrad Degree in Children's Studies

Eastern Washington University has been granted permission to offer a bachelor of arts degree program in Interdisciplinary Children's Studies. The first classes began this spring quarter.

At its meeting in February, the state's Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the degree offering which will prepare individuals for professional careers that focus on services for children, whether in schools or any of a number of social service settings.

It is the only such baccalaureate program in the state.

Currently, Eastern has an early childhood education minor within its Department of Education, but the new program is a major unto itself that seeks to bring a stronger voice and focus on the developmental, learning and social issues of children.

EWU to Establish Alaska Native Village Tribal Transportation Assistance Program

The Urban Planning Programs at Eastern Washington University recently received approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to begin a new Tribal Technical Assistance Program in Alaska.

The grant is funded for \$280,000 per year over the next five years to establish an Alaska Village Tribal Transportation Assistance Program, which will work with Alaskan Native villages and tribal organizations to identify and address transportation issues – which can range from where to locate new trails or roads to developing snowmobile recreation sites; how to attract tourism and provide training in contracting and self-governance compacts; or how to develop plans and implement transportation and related programs.

The Urban Planning Programs at EWU have operated the Northwest Tribal Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) since 1993, providing 50 Northwest tribes with technical assistance and training in transportation issues, working in conjunction with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. This program has assisted tribes to successfully plan and carry out transportation programs, research, and projects.

This program will now be expanded to become The Northwest and Alaska Tribal Technical Assistance Program. EWU will hire a new coordinator for the Alaska Center and establish an office in Alaska.

Institutional Review Finds EWU Thriving

Eastern Washington University "is thriving and gaining increasing national recognition as a model comprehensive, regional university," according to an extensive institutional review released this spring by the EWU Board of Trustees.

"Very few institutions have recovered so rapidly from malaises similar to that into which EWU had sunk," the report states, referring to the mid-1990s when enrollments were declining and

Eastern's survival as an independent state institution was in question.

The report also notes that Eastern's general/liberal education program is "one of the best we have seen in a public American college or university."

And, yet, Eastern's very success – a rapid reinvigoration of its campus and 16.2 percent enrollment increase from 1998 to fall 2001 – now creates a set of issues which must be dealt with immediately in order to reach the next level of academic distinction, the report states.

Those issues are defined in the 141-page report as how to best manage growth and how to allocate scarce resources. The report lays out tough

choices that need to be made concerning increasing admissions standards, consideration of the benefits and costs of continued growth especially in light of the unlikely prospect of financial relief from the state, review and probable elimination of academic programs and the need for increasing financial support.

The entire report is available at this website: <http://www.ewu.edu/new/aboutewu/boardoftrustees.html>

Nobel Laureate to speak At EWU Commencement

Dr. Lee Hartwell, president and director of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, will be Eastern Washington University's Commencement speaker on June 15. Winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine for his pioneering work in yeast genetics, Dr. Hartwell will be the second Nobel Laureate to speak at Eastern this academic year. Lech Walesa, founder of Poland's Solidarity Movement and recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1983, was the inaugural speaker in Eastern's new Presidential Speaker Series on Oct. 18, 2001.



New Housing and Retail Structure Rises in Cheney

Eastern Washington University has entered into a public-private partnership with Spokane developer Rob Brewster, president of ConoverBond Development, for a new downtown Cheney housing and retail facility, which will provide residential space for 140 Eastern students.

The site will also house a university-operated bookstore and a privately operated coffee shop. The four-story brick building to be constructed on the corner of Second and F streets, the site of the former Bonanza Ford dealership, is just two blocks away from the front entrance of Eastern's campus.