

Dear Alumni and Friends,

A college campus is a place brimming with ideas and questions – so why not harness that environment and use the intellectual knowledge and curiosity to improve Eastern? Well, that's what I hope to do.

Earlier this year, I set out to make it easy for any person on campus, or off campus, to pitch me an idea or ask me a question about EWU. I promised to do my best to answer your questions and to see if the ideas can be developed.

The feedback on your ideas and the answers to questions are starting to appear in several different venues, including here on the pages of *Eastern* magazine.

Let's get started with a Big Idea from 1971 alumna Mary Grafious of Seattle, who writes: *"Here is Something Big and really worth going all-out for. Eastern could work with our state's senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and the veterans' hospital in Spokane to develop a program for the newly disabled veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. This could encompass both physical and mental treatment and academic help. Possibly, the old military housing in Cheney could be utilized."*

Thank you, Mary, for your thoughtful idea. You will be happy to know that we have started looking at the possibility of establishing a better system to reach out to our veterans, possibly through a veterans' center – an idea proposed by the EWU faculty. I am also interested in exploring higher education opportunities for our disabled veterans being treated at the Spokane VA Medical Center. Their rehabilitation time could be used to gain some college credit. All of these ideas are just the beginning in finding the best way to serve our community of veterans.

While I will do my best to field as many ideas and questions as I can, I can't promise every idea or question will appear in print. However, I will look at and ponder all submissions.

You can submit your Big Question or Big Idea in the red boxes located in front of the President's Office on the second floor of Showalter and in the PUB. It's also easy to submit online at www.ewu.edu/officeofpresident.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rodolfo Arévalo, President



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