

Stephen Jordan



**Community**

*Definition: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society; a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic and/or political interests*

— American Heritage Dictionary

From the communities where you grew up, to the campus where you broadened your horizons, to the cities you went to upon graduation, there is a cycle of community involvement that our university supports and encourages.

When you first arrived on campus, you left behind your family and friends - a community that nurtured you and prepared you for the challenges of college. The moment you walked up the brick pathway to Showalter Hall, you became a part of a new community, an integral part of a vibrant and diverse campus culture which nurtures a climate of excellence in teaching and learning. At graduation you entered an arena filled with pomp and circumstance – a community of supporters, teachers and family celebrating your accomplishments.

The value of your experience at Eastern has brought you to where you are today. Whether you're from Seattle or Miami, whether you're an attorney or a marketing director, your contributions to your community have helped make them great places to live and work.

In this issue of *Perspective*, we explore the many ways in which Eastern Washington University is linked to the concept of community. We take a look at the University as a leader in building communities and some of the ways our students work in various communities as part of their college experience. Finally, we profile our alumni who provide service to their communities.

I sincerely hope that each one of you has experienced the rewards that came from being actively involved with the communities in which you live and work. You truly make an impact!

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