



## The 25<sup>th</sup> President

Dr. Rodolfo Arévalo was named Eastern's 25th president by the EWU Board of Trustees on Jan. 9. When he takes office this April 1, he becomes the first Latino president of any public four-year college or university in the state of Washington.

The youngest of seven children of migrant worker parents, he grew up in south Texas and remembers following the harvests with his family in Walla Walla and the Yakima Valley when he was very small. "My formative years as a migrant kid set the framework for my work ethic," the new president said. "Get up early, work late. I do that now, with an internal clock that rings early."

He and two of his brothers were the first in the family to go to college. He was inspired to do so by his oldest brother's example and by the influence of two teachers. "It's important to have role models," Dr. Arévalo said.

At Eastern, 55 percent of fall 2005's new freshmen were self-identified as the first in their families who will earn a college degree. And ethnic diversity is growing on campus, too – 15 percent overall, 18.6 percent among freshmen.

"In hiring Dr. Arévalo, Eastern clearly demonstrated an interest in recruiting an individual with the administrative and professional experience to lead this institution, regardless of ethnicity," said Carlos Maldonado, director of the EWU Chicano Education Program. "It demonstrated the importance of providing leadership that complements much of our first-generation student body, regardless of ethnicity. And it demonstrated the University's further contributions to diversity."

Trustee Gordon Budke, chair of the Presidential Search Committee, said the Trustees were looking for someone with a leadership and management style to bring people together, gain consensus and empower them to get the job done. "Rodolfo Arévalo is the right man for the right time."

Dr. Arévalo has 34 years experience in higher education, the last seven as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at The University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas, which happens to be the community where he was born. His undergraduate degree is in accounting, his master's in social work and his PhD in educational administration. (More information about him is available at [www.ewu.edu/x3277.xml](http://www.ewu.edu/x3277.xml))

He and his wife, Nadine, who have five grown children and three grandchildren, will live in the president's residence on campus with their dog Appy, a female boxer.

When he was introduced to the public on Jan. 9, he spoke of being humbled by the opportunity to become president of Eastern Washington University. But, as he began to speak, the emotion of the moment caught hold – and he needed to pause briefly. "Presidents shouldn't do this," he said, perhaps a bit embarrassed.

Yes, they should. Many members of the University community, alumni and news media who were on hand spoke of that moment afterwards and were touched by it, too, touched by his openness and willingness to reveal his heart. It was a very warm beginning.

Welcome to your new home, Dr. Arévalo. Great days are ahead.

Stefanie Pettit  
Editor

WINTER 2006

THE MAGAZINE for Eastern Washington University Alumni and Friends  
**EASTERN**

**Editor** – Stefanie Pettit

**Graphic Design** – Ryan Gaard '02

**Contributing Writers** – Laurie Winn Carlson '98, William Stimson '69, Pat Spanjer '80, Stefanie Pettit

**Photography** – Eric Galey '84, Ryan Gaard '02, Pat Spanjer '80

**Editorial Board** – Doug Kelley '83, Jack Lucas '77, Pia Hansen '98, Barb Richey '92, Kory Kelly '98

**Director of Alumni Relations** – Lisa Poplawski '94 and '01

**EWU Alumni Association** – Doug Kelley '83, chair

**EWU Foundation** – Kurt Orton, chair

### Contact Us

#### Address Changes Alumni Correspondence Class Notes Submissions

E-mail: [ewualum@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:ewualum@mail.ewu.edu)  
Phone: (509) 235-5034 or (888) EWU-ALUM  
Website: [www.ewualumni.org](http://www.ewualumni.org)  
Write: Alumni and Annual Giving Office,  
506 F Street, Cheney, WA 99004-2402  
Fax: (509) 235-5032

#### EASTERN Magazine Letters, Comments, Queries

E-mail: [easternmagazine@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:easternmagazine@mail.ewu.edu)  
Phone: (509) 359-6422  
Write: Eastern Magazine, 300 Showalter Hall,  
Cheney, WA 99004-2445  
Fax: (509) 359-4701

#### Supporting EWU

For information about making a gift to Eastern, please contact the Alumni and Annual Giving Office

E-mail: [ewualum@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:ewualum@mail.ewu.edu)  
Phone: (509) 235-5034  
Write: Alumni and Annual Giving Office,  
506 F Street, Cheney, WA 99004-2402  
Fax: (509) 235-5032

EASTERN, a magazine for alumni and friends of Eastern Washington University, is published in fall, winter and spring by University Relations and mailed free in the U.S. to alumni of record.

**A complete online version of this issue will be available at [www.ewu.edu/easternmagazine](http://www.ewu.edu/easternmagazine)**



**EASTERN**  
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY