November 22, 2011

Campus Community,

I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who took the time to help lay the foundation during the critical input, development and feedback phases of our "Inspiring the Future" strategic planning process. Students, faculty, staff and community members rolled up their sleeves to put in countless hours and provide valuable feedback to help create the final document.

Almost 250 people provided input during the college retreats and leadership sessions. During the October feedback sessions, nearly 110 people offered insightful comments and ideas to help the university sharpen its direction. Another 180 people responded to the Web survey.

The EWU Strategic Planning Committee heard what you had to say! The final plan includes numerous changes recommended by you. For example:

- The verbiage around how EWU fulfills its mission is worded to make it more unique to EWU. It specifically includes faculty, the unique student–faculty interaction and co-curricular programs at Eastern.
- The vision statement now includes an emphasis on the importance of developing graduates who are critical thinkers.
- Graduate programs are clearly represented throughout the plan.
- Student success is now clearly defined.

While the work of the Strategic Planning Committee is officially over, the real work now lies ahead. Now that the Board of Trustees has given its blessing to move forward, Eastern is ready to officially rollout and launch "Inspiring the Future."

This is a significant step. During the launch and rollout phase, EWU will again need your help to develop an action plan for the first year. This will involve identifying specific steps Eastern will take in 2012 to achieve the goals and strategies identified in the final document. The university is also developing a communications plan to support these efforts.

We all must truly be inspired each day at work to live up to the university’s values, mission and vision. This will foster an environment where students thrive and Eastern remains a valuable community partner during these difficult economic times.

Please visit ewu.edu/inspiringthefuture for access to the final strategic plan, where you can see how more of your input has been incorporated. I look forward to embarking on this exciting process with all of you!

Sincerely,

Rodolfo Arévalo, PhD
President