September 20, 2011

Dear Campus Community,

The beginning of the academic year is now upon us, and we are all very busy as we settle in for the fall quarter. While summer break was a time for us all to recharge our batteries, many of us didn't stop working on Inspiring the Future, the important strategic planning process I announced last spring.

The EWU Strategic Planning Committee, co-chaired by me and Rex Fuller, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, met throughout the summer months. The committee includes a diverse group of students, faculty, staff and community members.

The goal is simple: Identify the best way to utilize campus resources and develop a clear action plan with attainable goals so EWU can adapt to the funding challenges facing higher education institutions in the state of Washington.

The current draft of Inspiring the Future focuses on four key areas: Student Success, Innovation, Reputation and Community Engagement. Each of these relates to how Eastern positions itself in the community, builds on its strengths and creates an environment where each student thrives.

To that end, after numerous strategy sessions and input from all our valuable constituents, the university is very close to rolling out a draft of the Inspiring the Future Strategic Plan for your feedback. This will help solidify the mission, vision, values and goals of this important effort.

Before we unveil the draft, Dr. Fuller and I will provide presentations on the strategic plan's preliminary results to the various colleges and leadership teams. Additionally, we will hold open feedback sessions for the campus community.

The open forums are scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, Oct. 5, 3:30-5 p.m., SHW 109
- Thursday, Oct. 6, 10-11:30 a.m., PUB MPR
- Thursday, Oct. 6, 4-5:30 p.m., Riverpoint SAC 20

You can also look for another Web survey for feedback purposes. We want your voice to be heard, and your feedback will be used as we finalize the plan.

You can stay informed on this process by visiting www.ewu.edu/inspiringthefuture.

Sincerely,

Rodolfo Arévalo, PhD
President