

# Academic Affairs

Western Oregon University



## Kudos

WOU's **Regional Resource Center on Deafness** received a \$1 million grant from the Federal Rehabilitation Service Administration to support the Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling Program. Congratulations to Dr. Denise Thew-Hackett, Chad Ludwig and colleagues.

## Message from the Provost

We have had a busy start to the academic year, with many efforts under way that support student success and achievement. I am struck by how every successful initiative at WOU happens because of the hard work, dedication and expertise of you and your colleagues.



- ▶ As you can read in the next article, we have had a significant increase in freshman to sophomore retention rates. Such an increase can be attributed to the hard work of many faculty and staff who provide the personalized support for which WOU is known.
- ▶ The new General Education Program was successfully launched after years of hard work by many of you.

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- ▶ Students are excited about the new Course Scheduler tool, which allows them to input the courses they need and any time constraints they have. The program then gives students all the possible course course schedule permutations that meet their needs.
- ▶ As you may recall from President Fuller's State of the University Address in September, WOU has the goal of becoming the first four-year public university in Oregon to be federally recognized as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). As a part of that goal, the University Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Academic Affairs and many other units have begun planning for a 2020 HSI Summit to learn more about what we are currently doing to support our students and provide a forum to solicit feedback and ideas from the broader campus community. More information about the summit will be coming soon.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday season and winter break.

*Robert Fuller*

## *Did You Know?*



*President Leonard W. Rice, for whom Rice Auditorium is named, was given the opportunity to light the first tree in 1967.*

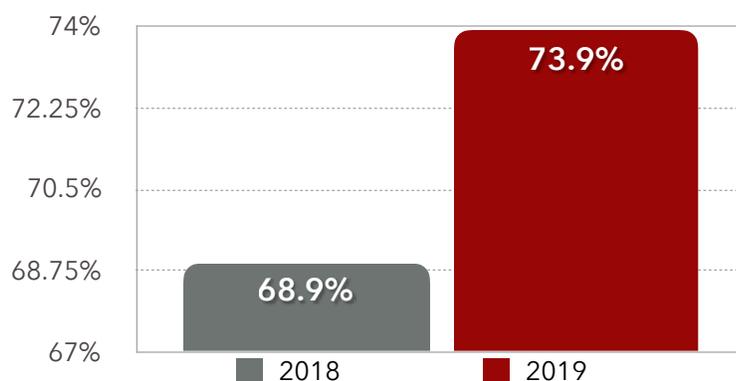
## Nudges Help Increase Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rates

Freshman to sophomore retention rates increased from 68.9% to 73.9%

During the 2018-2019 academic year, a three-stage nudge communication plan was implemented.

- Nudge 1 (Week 5) - Email notification of advising holds sent to all currently enrolled students by Niki Weight, director of Student Success and Advising
- Nudge 2 (Week 9) - Email reminder to register sent to all unregistered students, excluding students who applied for graduation that term. This nudge was sent by the students' assigned adviser.
- Nudge 3 (Finals Week) - A final reminder to register sent to all unregistered students, excluding students who applied for graduation that term. Targeted nudge emails sent to two groups of students: those whose

### Freshman to Sophomore Retention Rates



adviser hold was removed and those who did not have adviser holds.

Over the summer, a personalized nudge from President Fuller was sent to unregistered students with registration holds. Additionally, division chairs sent nudges to unregistered students in their divisions.

All of these efforts helped increase freshman to sophomore retention rates from 68.9% (2018) to 73.9% (2019), which is an important indicator of student success.

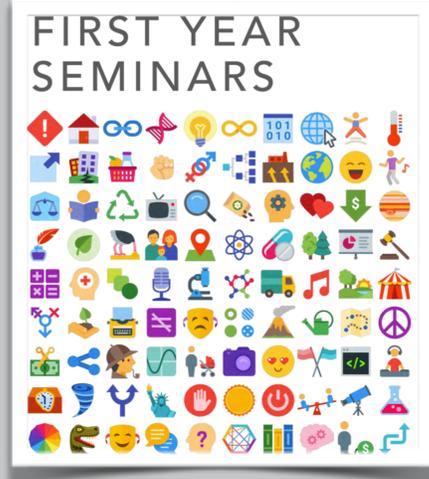
## GENERAL EDUCATION LAUNCH

The new General Education Program has successfully launched with 210 courses offered across every academic division on campus.

## FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR LAUNCH

In fall 2019, 24 first-year seminar sections were offered (100 and 200 level), and more than 500 students registered. These courses included Nature and Photography, Creative Problem Solving, and Trend Lines vs. Headlines, to name just a few.

<https://wou.edu/gened/>



## Academic Excellence

- Twenty Western Oregon University students will be participating in the National Student Exchange Program for 2019-2020. This is the largest number of participants ever in this program.
- Program reviews have been completed for music, philosophy and sociology. We have four more programs scheduled for review this year: business/economics, criminal justice, gerontology, and theatre arts.
- The new Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership program launched fall term with 19 students enrolled.

## Have You Seen the Vick Building Yet?

Watch this 10 minute [video](#) for a tour.



## Featured Winter Event: Congress to Campus

Feb. 11-13

Congress to Campus brings together former members of Congress and youths to increase civic literacy and participation. A bipartisan pair of former members are sent to college, university and community college campuses for two-day visits. During the visit, former members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty, visit high schools and civic organizations, and do interviews and talk show appearances with local press and media. This setting allows students to discover, on a more personal basis, what participation in a democracy entails.

The aim of Congress to Campus is to engage students and provide inspiration that will lead to greater democratic participation, whether it is in the arena of public service or something as simple as voting.

Drs. Earlene Camarillo and Mary Pettenger submitted the successful application for WOU to be a 2020 Congress to Campus participant.

## EVENTS, HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES...OH MY!

December	January	February	March
Finals Week - December 9-13	New Year's Day - January 1 - Holiday Closure	Congress to Campus - February 11-13	Finals Week - March 16-20
Winter Break Begins - December 16	Winter Term Begins - January 6	President's Day - February 17	Spring Break - March 21-25
Christmas Eve - December 24 - Holiday Closure	MLK Day - January 20 - Holiday Closure		Spring Term Begins - March 30
Christmas Day - December 25 - Holiday Closure			