



ANNUAL REPORT
2013-14

*The University's newest addition:
Visual & Performing Arts Center
prepared for a Fall 2014 opening.*





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Western Connecticut State University is proud of its year of achievement. We have reached or moved toward several goals, including re-accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and preparations for the opening of a new, \$97 million center for the School of Visual and Performing Arts.

Our overarching mission is to serve our students as well as possible and we make decisions based on whether students will be better off. With that guiding principal, the university opened two new learning centers, one for math and another focused on students in the Ansell School of Business. With the approval of the University Senate, we also began implementation of a new First Year Experience that will be fully operational in Fall 2015.

Although this Annual Report looks back to Fiscal Year 2013–14, you will see that the future for WCSU is strong. We celebrate a vibrant culture that provides a solid foundation for our students to learn, succeed and create the future.

Please take the time to read through this report and let me know your thoughts.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "James W. Alveston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

ACCREDITATION



(Above) Outreach to the community demonstrates Western's importance and relevance to the region. Here, education students explain their research to a community visitor.

(Below) The Math Emporium allows students to fully learn a concept before moving to the next.

NEASC

The university successfully earned renewal of its accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). The accomplishment, following a two-year process of self-study conducted by the university community, ensures that Western continues to rank among the most proficient and respected institutions in the region.

The association commended the university's clear articulation of its mission and its open and transparent structure of shared governance since NEASC's last major accreditation review of Western a decade ago; as well as establishment of the School of Visual and Performing Arts; introduction of a new education doctoral program in instructional leadership; a 100 percent pass rate for WCSU nursing students on the state board examination; and adoption of a tiered, competency-based model for general education by the University Senate.

NCATE

The Education Department of the School of Professional Studies achieved reaccreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

AACSB

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business Initial Accreditation Committee accepted the Ansell School of Business' first annual progress report, acknowledging that the school has developed new faculty qualification criteria, provided evidence of effective curriculum management, and demonstrated adequate staff support to achieve the Ansell mission.

A BOOST FOR STUDENTS



The university has put in place two new platforms that provide direct assistance to students and designed a third that will take effect next year.

- **The Learning Commons**, operated in the Robert S. Young Library by the Ansell School of Business, provides

tutoring in business subjects and offers a range of programs and services designed to positively affect retention and persistence to graduation.

- **The Math Emporium** will provide the opportunity for more than 1,000 students each year to improve their mastery of fundamental mathematics by taking advantage of computer-based adaptive learning techniques that reinforce and build upon classroom instruction. All students in 100-level courses are enabled to proceed on a self-paced basis with immediate access to tutors to assist with special problems.
- **Approval of the new general education curriculum** included a first-year experience for all students. FY courses will focus on navigation of the academic landscape at WCSU. The First Year Experience will go into effect in Fall 2015.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The university prepared to bolster its standing as the only School of Visual and Performing Arts in the Connecticut State Colleges and University System as its newest building took shape.

The Visual & Performing Arts Center, under construction for two years, was scheduled to open for the fall semester, with a theatre, concert hall and a wing

for painting and sculpture. The \$97 million, 130,000-square-foot building features:

- A 350-seat concert hall
- A MainStage Theatre featuring a 38-foot proscenium and a full 80-foot fly facility with 51 manual line sets
- An art space, including a gallery, with the majority of the art studios featuring northern exposures

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents for Higher Education recognized three WCSU professors:

Dr. Neeta Connally, assistant professor of Biological & Environmental Sciences
The 2014 Faculty Research Award for WCSU.

Dr. Mary O'Neill, instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Humanistic Studies
State-Wide Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. JC Barone, assistant professor of Communication and Media Arts
The WCSU and State-Wide Teaching Award

PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Western was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, recognizing the university's commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

The Honor Roll is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service's (CNCS) strategic commitment to engage

millions of college students in service. CNCS has administered the award since 2006 and manages the program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the American Council on Education and Campus Compact.

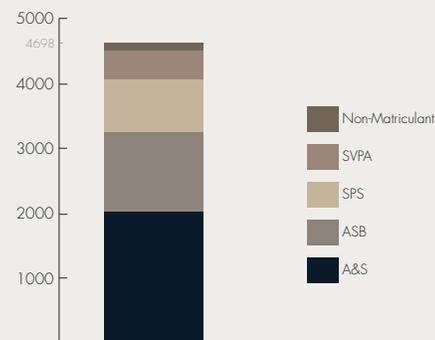


An admissions officer counsels a prospective student.

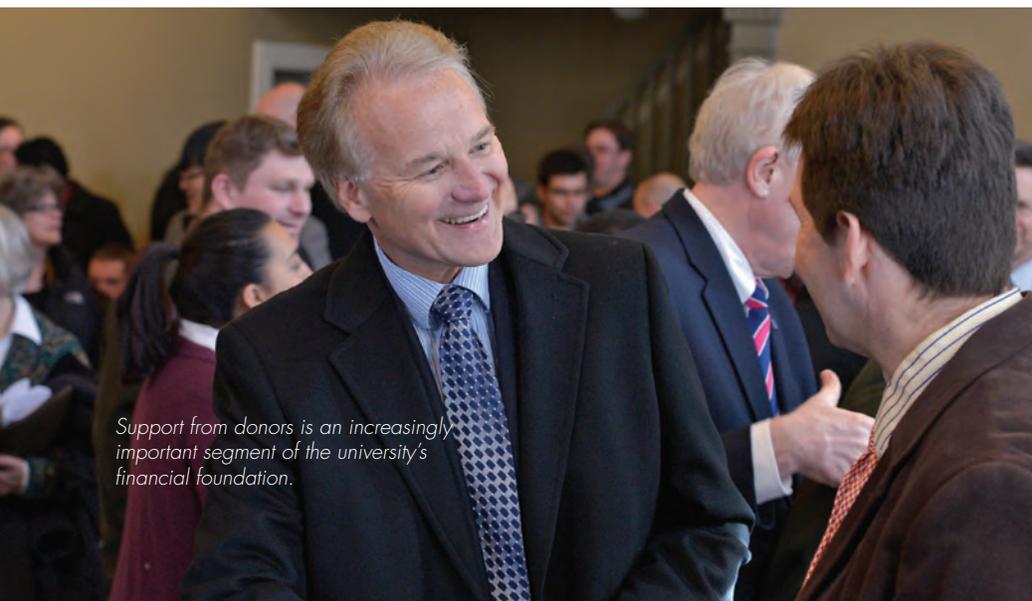
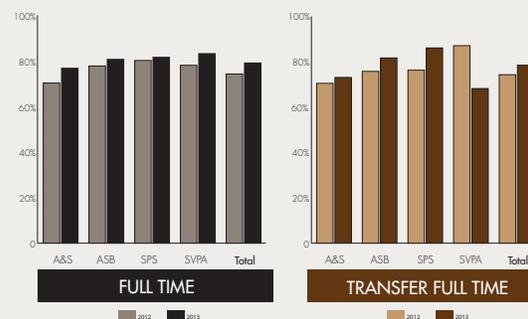
ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

The university, responding to a multi-year downturn in enrolled students, supported the Enrollment Management division with resources to reverse the trend. Fourteen positions were added to Admissions, Financial Aid, Veterans Affairs, the Advisement Center and the Registrar's Office, along with acquisition of software, expanded travel for Admissions counselors, and training. As a result, applications increased 7.3 percent.

2013 ENROLLMENT TRENDS UNDERGRADUATE FULL-TIME



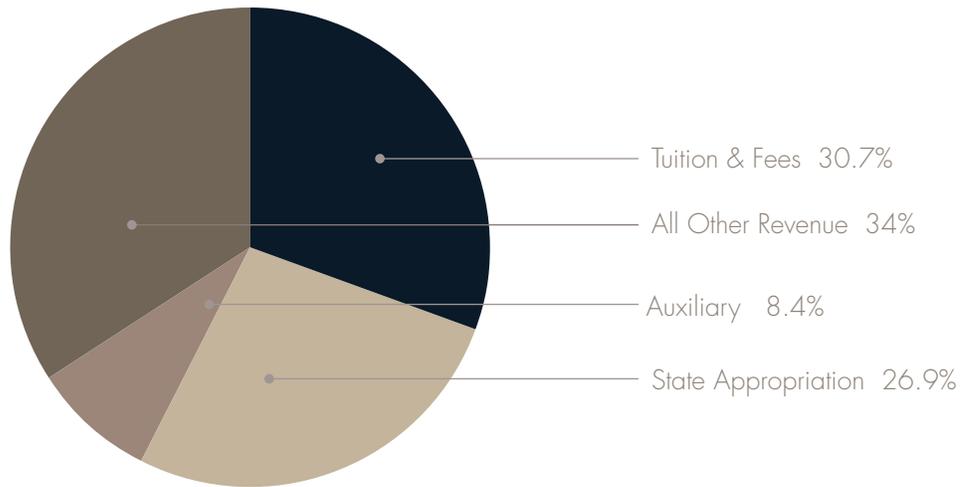
WCSU UNDERGRADUATE FULL-TIME PERCENTAGE RETAINED FROM FIRST YEAR TO SECOND YEAR



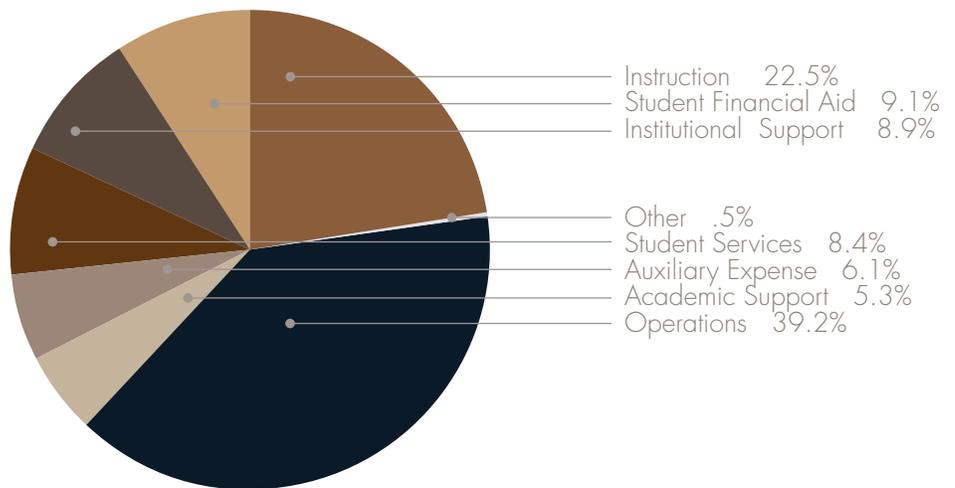
Support from donors is an increasingly important segment of the university's financial foundation.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2013-14

REVENUE



EXPENSE





A SAMPLING OF OUR BEST STUDENTS

Although Patrick Finneran and Thomas Pickel took different paths toward academic journeys at Western, they took advantage of everything the university had to offer — including designing and carrying out laboratory research as assistants to the university's chemistry faculty — and upon their 2014 graduations were accepted into two of the nation's elite doctoral programs.

Finneran, of Oakville, entered Brandeis University to pursue a doctorate in biochemistry and biophysics. Pickel, of Bethel, began studies at Emory University for a Ph.D. in organometallic chemistry. Each received full tuition scholarships as well as stipends and other benefits from their graduate schools. They both earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in chemistry at WCSU; Finneran was fascinated with chemistry from a young age but Pickel had little classroom exposure to the science before entering Western.

They agreed, however, that their chemistry studies at Western have prepared them well to meet the academic and career challenges ahead. "I came to Western because it was a smaller state school and it had a great science program. I fell in love with Western the day I first toured the Science Building," Finneran said. Over the past four years, he added, "the research that I've done here has taught me a lot about life."

Pickel affirmed that view. "The research that I've done here has opened my mind to a new way of thinking and problem-solving," he said. "If something goes wrong in your research, you don't dwell on it. You learn from your mistakes, do some reading, and decide how to move forward."



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