

Vicky L. Carwein, Chancellor

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WSU Tri-Cities committed to top-notch service

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Very recently you may have read about alterations of enrollment numbers that occurred a few semesters ago at Washington State University Tri-Cities. I appreciate that this matter was brought to our attention and that, with the support of University administration and this community, we have been able to resolve the issue quickly.

It is still unclear why enrollment numbers were altered, as the changes did not financially benefit the institution or any individual. Immediate corrective actions were taken, including the implementation of new checks and balances to make sure this cannot happen again.

While this incident was unfortunate, it is not representative of the work that is routinely performed on this campus. We take our obligations to the citizens of this state very seriously and our business practices will be open and transparent. As a public institution, WSU Tri-Cities is accountable to this community and we are committed to providing the best possible education and service, and being the role model that is expected and demanded.

In my 25 years in higher education and administration at public universities, I have learned that an incident such as this provides an opportunity to make an institution stronger and better. WSU Tri-Cities' long-standing exemplary performance in educating students will continue to grow, positively impacting more students while preparing them for more fields of endeavor.

I have lived in the Tri-Cities for just over a year now and I am as impressed today as I was when I accepted the position by how the people of the Tri-Cities have rallied around higher education in general and WSU Tri-Cities in particular. Without the community we would not have a four-year institution. Without the community we could not have provided our new freshmen with guaranteed scholarships, laptops, internships and career mentors.

Thanks to the generosity of this community we have almost met our goal for 100 freshman scholarships. Only \$148,000 is needed to totally finish the campaign.

This fall semester we posted a record enrollment, with more than double the number of freshmen than originally anticipated. The energy that these new students have brought to WSU Tri-Cities is palpable—there is a genuine air of excitement in the classrooms and throughout campus. This energy will only grow as we admit our next class of freshmen.

Increasing student enrollments is only one example of the exciting changes and growth that we are experiencing. Just this year we have begun a number of exciting projects that will literally change the landscape of campus. We are (cont.)



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currently conducting a record number of searches for new faculty, many of which are for leadership positions. The quality of our faculty is instantly reflected in the quality of education that this institution provides.

We are also expanding our viticulture and enology program and are searching for a director for a state-wide program that will be headquartered here.

The ribbon cutting for the Bioproducts, Sciences, and Engineering Laboratory (BSEL) is scheduled for March 2008. This facility was built in partnership with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and our students will have the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge bioproducts research with nationally renowned scientists using the most current technology and lab facilities. In the near future, WSU Tri-Cities will be the home of a nationally and internationally known center of excellence in bioproducts and bioenergy.

Partnerships such as these will extend well beyond our campus and benefit the community, the region, and the world at large. Another example is our collaboration with the Battelle Memorial Institute and local school districts to explore the creation of a public high school focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This new high school will improve the quality of secondary education in the region and expand the reputation of this community throughout the state and the nation.

The tremendous growth and success of WSU Tri-Cities is a testament to the continued commitment and active support of this community. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, I extend a sincere and heart-felt thank you for this support. We look forward to many more partnerships and collaborations that will grow and strengthen higher education in the Tri-Cities.

- Chancellor Vicky L. Carwein may be contacted at chancellor@tricity.wsu.edu. WSU Tri-Cities offers 17 baccalaureate, 14 graduate, and five doctoral degree programs as part of the Washington State University system. The campus is located at 2710 University Drive in Richland, one block north of Hanford High. For more information, call 509-372-7250 or go to www.tricity.wsu.edu.



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