

Western's Presentation: January 31, 2005

Slide 1	Main Hall
Slide 2	This year's <i>U.S. News and World Report</i> rated Western as the top public comprehensive college in the West. Number one in the West in the category that Western is in. Magazine is used as a recruiting tool.
Slide 3	We are about the students, this is what we do. We understand that the mission of the University is to educate young people and we have faculty and staff that is incredibly dedicated to the mission and the academic goals of Western. We are privileged to work with a group of students like the ones that are in this photo.
Slide 4	This is a photo of main hall about a century ago. Might have been the first building on campus where Western was first put in place in 1893 as Montana's normal school. Western remained a normal school for a long time.
Slide 5	One of the comprehensive programs on campus is teacher education, Western is know for this. Teacher education where Western almost have 100% placement of the graduates, is a very high form of workforce development.
Slide 6	National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education This is the agency that reviews Western. We get rave reviews
Slide 7	Photograph of a Geology Professor. Caption for picture: "All Rise" or Professor Thomas is leading the group in a round of YMCA
Slide 8	Name of Block Plan is Experience One. Photo is of one of Western's teachers working with a group in teacher's education
Slide 9	Group of students in a business class who were asked to deal with the problem of how would you set up a small business With block plan, students work together to find solutions.
Slide 10	Experience One: Faculty and students can work in upper level kinds of courses. This photo is of an English professor working with a student on a creative writing project. We also have faculty working with students in various kinds of research projects as other schools do.
Slide 11	Group of students at a radio station on campus discussing the results of some studies that have been done on Experience One and what has happened to the students who have taken the block courses.

Slide 12	What goes with Experience One and experiential learning is less talk and more action. Student is in industrial technology. There is a 100% placement with the graduates from industrial industry and industrial arts who go into the teaching. The demand is even higher than what Western can supply right now. Need to upgrade Western's facilities.
Slide 13	Experiential education goes back a long time. This slide came from the archives. Don't know the date.
Slide 14	a) Slide on the left is a biology professor engaged in a technique that is being done for DNA finger printing and DNA analysis.
Slide 14	b) Slide on the right is a group of business students exploring a problem with their business professor. Nobody is lecturing. Less talk and more action. Learning by doing.
Slide 15	Western has expanded into Equine Studies. Two-year programs in equine management and business, in equine science in natural horsemanship.
Slide 16	At Western learning is done outside the traditional box. This is a group of student in a limnology class examining water quality. Western does this routinely and regularly. We are strong in geology, biology and ecology and environmental sciences.
Slide 17	Western's location gives us many advantages. It attracts many people that are lovers of the outdoors. Western needs to take better advantage of our location.
Slide 18	Dillon is a Mecca for outdoor people Is this Dick's office? Reply is, "I wish."
Slide 19	Outreach programs where students and community members may take courses. These classes are quite well attended. Western has a professional guide institute looking at the possibilities of developing a professional institute for fly fishing guides. We are doing this in collaboration with the Government of Chile. They would like to send a number of people from Chile to Dillon to learn how to become professional fly fishing guides.
Slide 20	Athletics is important at Western. We believe it allows us to recruit a large more diverse and stronger student body. Our athletes tend to graduate at higher rates than the rest of our students. Team members have a 3.5 GPA. Our athletic program also allows us to train coaches. Many coaches in Montana's schools have graduated from Western.
Slide 21	Last spring, the national coach of the year was Olie Else. She is Western's rodeo coach. She is a great ambassador for us.

Slide 22	Dillon is a great community. Western is also a very important part of that. We have partnerships with various kinds of businesses. We have internship programs with businesses. Students are doing things on the farms and ranches. Staff is involved on boards, committees, on city council.
Slide 23	What about the future for Western. We have started a revised strategic plan. We have surveyed various people. We are assembling the information we get from this survey into a strategic plan that will be used to underpin a capital campaign to support the future of Western.
Slide 24	We know there are some things that we need to emphasis in this map. One is enrollment. We want to grow the enrollment to about 1,400 to 1,500 students. We think our faculty can handle this amount. We think it will give us strength and stability. How do we do this? Increased efforts in: 1) admissions 2) advertising, 3) retention. And challenge the students to set a goal of earning a degree
Slide 25	Marketing at Western needs to be done. Western has been the best kept secret. We don't want that. We want people to know that Western is an educational gym. So we need to do a better job in integrated marketing and do a better job with our webpage & alumni.
Slide 26	We need to stay current in technology. This is a group of students in a business class using modern business software but we need to stay up with the machines and with the software that these students need to know so we can offer a very modern business curriculum.
Slide 27	Campus is enormously important, the atmosphere and appearance of the campus is a large influence for prospective students and the hiring and retaining excellent faculty and staff. So we need to maintain our facilities and there are some that are behind in deferred maintenance.
Slide 28	The newest building on campus is the Schwisgood Center. It is a focal point of intellectual activity and scholarship on our campus. There are a number of rooms where are technology is used. Building has just been terrific for us.
Slide 29	We need to grow our partnerships with people in the Dillon and Beaverhead community. This picture is to remind us of the importance of our relationship with William Kregal and LaCense-Montana. This program trains students in natural horsemanship, where most of the students come from France. This program trains horses and sell them, raise cattle and hay. They are a great bunch of kids. We are also looking at programs in rural sustainability in farm and ranch managing for profit in sustainable agriculture.

Slide 30	What we want to do in Dillon is to become a center for the Arts. We dream about having a Montana festival in the Arts. In order to do this we need to modernize the auditorium. This photo is a drawing of the proposed renovation. The auditorium isn't in great shape right now.
Slide 31	We understand that we are strong in teacher education and we want to stay strong in teacher education. The teacher's placement is almost 100% . Graduates from the teacher education program are in demand and are a high form of workforce development. Western has expanded our teacher education program. Examples: partner with SKC, expanded library holdings in Native American books, developed upper level education courses in multicultural and international education focusing on Native Americans .
Slide 32	Western's goal that we set in front of our student is to earn a degree and graduate from Western. It wasn't a topic that was pushed hard before. Now when students walk by they say, "Yeah, declare a major and graduate." I hope it starts to sink in.
Slide 33	I would like to say that with the dedicated faculty and staff that we have, with the committed students with the committed community support that we enjoy at Western, with the support from the University and from the Legislature, that we have a clear goal that we want to be the best. No organization ever became the best without saying that they wanted to be the best . And that is what we want to do. We will use our strategic plan as a map to get to that . I think the future of Western is very bright. Thank you.