



West Plains Update



University Council

September 2, 2025

Zora Mulligan, Chancellor

Top 3

1. Opening day enrollment
2. HLC site visit prep
3. Strategic planning





Top 3

- 1. Opening day enrollment**
2. HLC visit prep
3. Strategic planning

- Headcount up 4%
- Credit hours down 4%
- Significant decrease in first-time freshmen
- Significant increase in online, continuing students, and dual credit



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THAT WAS THEN...

- Campus is currently on probation
- 2023 site visit team concluded that campus had met three criteria with concern; one criterion not met
- Issues were all related to assessment
 - Have we articulated what students are supposed learn in each class and program?
 - How are we determining whether students meet those objectives?
 - What do we do with that data?
 - Are the outcomes the same across sections – including sections taught in China, by per-course faculty, and as dual credit?



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...THIS IS NOW

- Director of assessment has been hired and is championing assessment throughout campus
- Academic leaders have done significant work with faculty to develop course- and program-level student learning outcomes
- The campus has invested in Watermark to compare outcomes across sections and roll up to the program and institution levels
- Co-curricular assessment criteria have been drafted and data collected
- Communication with Dalian, per-course, and dual credit instructors has improved to increase consistency
- New assurance argument is in final draft stage and out for final review; aligned with new criteria



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WHAT'S NEXT

- September 22: Deadline to submit assurance argument
- October 3: Prep session for BOG members
- November 17-18: HLC site visit
- Early/mid-December: Will likely have a good indication of site visit team members' recommendations
- February: Hearing at HLC HQ
- June: Notice of official decision

Top 3

It's a love story (about assessment)

HLC, just say yes

**Or at least, yes with an
interim report before your
next regular visit**





Top 3

1. Opening day enrollment
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3. **Strategic planning**

- Consultants hired
- Co-chairs identified
- Working on committee
- Complete in time for June 2026 BOG approval
- Strategic Enrollment Management Plan and Facilities Master Plan will follow

Update on Team: Transitions

You say goodbye...



Dakota Bates
Assoc. VC for
Marketing and Communications

...and I say hello



Brian Mitchell
Director of
Facility Operations



Justin Long
Director of
TJ Swift House
ASCEND Program

Update on Self: Same Old Z

Using jazz hands to convey
important information to
Senator Eric Schmitt's staff





Questions?