

Dear Weber State Family,

Below are highlights from our town hall on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. The slides and full recording can be found on our [website](#).

Thanks to all of the staff, faculty, volunteers, and partners who have engaged in so many community activities over the summer. It's so great to see our impact on the community!

Strategic Plan

We look forward to providing the Board of Trustees a Year 1 report in August on the [Weber State AMPLIFIED](#) strategic plan and will share that at the Back-to-School events as well. In the meantime, here are a few highlights across the five goal areas of the plan.

- Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion – We have established a presidential advisory council for equity, diversity, and inclusion, completed our first campus equity audit in the Stewart Library, and will soon hire the Executive Director of Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives.
- Retention & Completion – Work continues on our Weber State Student Success playbook which includes centralizing high school dual enrollment efforts, making financial aid information more accessible, standardizing academic advising experiences, and refining our data efforts across campus.
- Community Anchor Mission – We recently signed an [Education Partnership Agreement with Hill Air Force Base](#) and launched the Miller Advanced Research and Solutions (MARS) Center in the former USTAR building. WSU has achieved the [STARS](#) silver recognition for sustainability efforts and is just four points from STARS gold recognition.
- Personal Connections & Academic Excellence – Approximately 69% of graduating students experienced at least two high-impact educational experiences during their time at WSU, which exceeds our goal of 50% doing so.
- Marketing & Branding – Our Cicero market research study is nearly complete, which will provide information to both segment and guide our marketing efforts.

Enrollment

Another component of the strategic plan is our enrollment target, which calls for modest growth and achieving our emerging Hispanic Serving Institution goal. As of today, fall degree-seeking matriculated student headcount enrollment is down 3.4% from 2021 and 7% from 2022. This will have budget implications because federal COVID relief funds are no longer abundantly available to mitigate the impact.

While we do have increases in our number of admitted students, including out-of-state students, and the number of students who are enrolled and have been awarded Pell, we continue to experience declines in students over the age of 25, male students, and first-generation students. Our Hispanic student population is relatively flat in comparison to last year, and the number of students enrolling who just graduated with concurrent enrollment credit is up as well.

While many of you are already involved in outreach efforts to new and continuing students, there are a few things we can all do to help. Each year there are typically some 4,000 students that register for classes between now and the beginning of the Fall Semester. You can each help them by monitoring waitlists, particularly for general education and classes first-year students typically take. Please encourage the students you interact with to check their email for information about orientation and financial aid.

Reaching out and checking in with students to see if they have questions or concerns is incredibly helpful. We can all do small things to help more students enroll and complete their education. If you encounter a student with a question you can't answer, please email starfish@weber.edu.

Construction

Our major projects are online to be operational by the beginning of the fall semester, but supply chain issues have created some complexities that will see continued follow-up. These projects include the Noorda Engineering, Applied Science & Technology Building, the OGX Wildcat Shuttle bus-rapid transit route from the Dee Events Center to Central Campus, and the roundabout at Skyline and Edvalson.

COVID

Public Safety is continuing to work with our local health departments to monitor COVID cases, and we ask anyone on campus who tests positive to report it on the self-report [form](#). At-home test kits can be requested through <https://www.covid.gov/tests>. Please continue to keep up to date on CDC guidance for [masking](#) and [contact tracing](#).

Upcoming Events

We look forward to several upcoming events for our campus community. Details are available in the campus announcements:

- Pioneer Days 5k Race at WSU Davis (July 16)
- Lindquist Pops Concert & Fireworks (July 17)
- Campus Picnic (July 19)
- Summer Scoops at the Shepherd Union (Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. through August 17)
- Back to School Breakfast (August 22)
- First Day of Fall Semester (August 29)
- 100th Anniversary Mount Ogden Hike (September 24)

Our lives, individually and as a society, continue to face many challenges and changes that have serious impacts. One piece of evidence that shows how much has changed at Weber State is that we have filled over 400 staff positions and 120 faculty positions since March 2020. Please remember to take time to look out for your own well-being and if possible, make sure to take time to rejuvenate. And, let's pause to celebrate major accomplishments for each other and take inspiration from developments like the [first images from the NASA Webb Telescope](#).

Wishing us all health, happiness, and fortitude.

Best,
brad