A Welcoming Campus

• The first edition of *Worcester State Magazine*, formerly known as *The Statement*, was delivered to the post office on Monday, October 26, showcasing a new modern design with bold photos and engaging features. In this inaugural issue, the cover story highlights Worcester State’s extensive involvement in the Latin American Health Alliance Hector Reyes House.

• WSU students turned out in record numbers on Make a Difference Day. Students worked alongside teams from The City Manager’s Office, Greater Worcester Land Trust, and Chandler Magnet School. Increasingly, undergraduate students expect opportunities to engage with local communities. The University is actively reexamining what is meant by civic learning and to invest in preparing students for lifelong civic participation.

• The collaboration between the Department of Education and the Center for Effective Instruction to deliver district-based master’s degrees in Educational Leadership and Administration continues to grow, with five active cohorts.

• The Student Government Association’s (SGA) Auction Committee is seeking donations from local businesses for their annual charity auction that supports Abby House, Mustard Seed, and Sherry's House. This year's goal is $24,000 and the event is scheduled for Friday, April 8, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Student Center’s Blue Lounge.

Promoting Financial Stability

• The Worcester State University Department of Education will be named for Barbara O’Brien, a 1957 graduate and long-time benefactor of the college. This naming establishes an endowed fund for Department of Education’s students and faculty to support the pursuit of academic excellence. The O’Brien family has contributed more than a half million dollars to Worcester State University, supporting students with six endowed scholarships and sponsoring the annual Robert K. O’Brien Next Big Idea contest to encourage student entrepreneurship.

• To date, nearly $500,000 has been raised from alumni, alumni, friends, corporations and grants toward Worcester State’s $2.5 million annual goal, including $30,000 in phonathon gifts, two new Adopt a Scholar scholarships, and a combined $100,000 gift and bequest from alumna Estelle H. Blake ’60.

• The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation just announced that the Worcester State’s Latino Education Institute (LEI) will be awarded a three-year grant of $225,000. This funding supports the One
Circle Program for Sexual Education and Healthy Choices and a collaboration between the LEI, the Worcester Youth Center (WYC) and The Community Builders Inc. at Plumley Village (TCB). The goal of this multi-year initiative is to develop a culturally responsive gender-specific program to support healthy relationships and build positive futures for approximately 135 middle school girls from the city of Worcester. In addition, 100 families will participate in annual family engagement activities designed to support family learning and discussion aligned with core program topics.

- Worcester State is revisiting its proposed partnership with The Learning House (a vendor of online program services) to offer 100% online graduate and undergraduate programs, with an anticipated launch by Fall 2016 or Spring 2017.

- Fall 2015 graduate enrollments are up more than 20% over Fall 2014. Undergraduate Continuing Education enrollment is down slightly (6%). Worcester State is doing well in its graduate and continuing education enrollment as compared to its sister DGCE units.

- The Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) is pursuing a partnership with Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) to offer English language training to students who have been conditionally admitted into their programs. This program is anticipated to start in January of 2016.

- IELI’s Intensive Language Program’s Fall 2015 enrollment is its highest in ten years, with 82 students. This is a 28% gain over Fall 2014. Spring 2016 F1 student visa applications are 26% ahead of last year’s numbers.

Looking to the Future

- The Alumni Office and the Admissions Office have partnered to establish the Lancer Admissions Ambassador Program, drawing from interested younger alumni, class agents, and members of the Young Alumni and Student Engagement Committees of the Alumni Association’s Alumni Advisory Board (AAAB). In October, two recruiting events launched this partnership.

- Saturday, October 17’s Admissions open house had a total attendance of approximately 500, which is very similar to last year’s numbers. The next open house is scheduled for Saturday, November 14.

- In an effort to expand opportunities that encourage development of student leadership, Athletics and the Office of Health and Wellness hosted two student-athlete orientations. The purpose of the trainings was to build school spirit and conduct educational sessions on career
planning, leadership styles, bystander intervention, and Title IX.

- The Career Services Office continues to expand professional networking opportunities for Worcester State students and graduates. The Part Time Job and Internship Fair hosted a record number of employers hiring for both part time employment and internships.