



Report to Faculty Assembly – May 3, 2024

As you can imagine, spring quarter is exciting and full of activity. As with the prior written report, I have organized this update using the framework of the five strategic priorities in our strategic plan.

Students - Advance student success academically, professionally, and personally.

Thank you to all the faculty who nominated UWT students for the Husky 100 recognition. Seven of our students were selected for this recognition and were honored at a special ceremony on May 2. The UWT homepage has a full story about the students selected.

ASUWT leaders presented findings from their four surveys about student experiences at UW Tacoma. Survey topics included Student Health and Wellness, Student Safety, Student Technology and Student Food Insecurity and Basic Needs. Written summaries are available on their website at <https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/asuwt/our-student-survey-data>.

Communities - Partner in advancing strong and diverse communities.

We have multiple community-based organizations engaging with our campus to bring prospective students to UW Tacoma and experience our campus first-hand. We have hosted groups from the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, Mi Centro and the Technology Access Foundation. We will host the Tacoma Rainier Scholars program for middle school students on campus this summer.

We have 420 distinct events scheduled on campus during Spring quarter (more than Autumn and Winter combined), including the very successful (and soggy) Husky Fest and Admitted Student Day that happened on April 27.

Husky Fest and Admitted Student Day brought an estimated 1,500 people to our campus for tours, information sessions, 6 food trucks, dance and music groups. The rain didn't dampen the spirit of our community wanting to engage with our campus and learn more about what UW Tacoma has to offer. We are already planning for an even bigger and better 3rd annual event next Spring.

Scholarship - Expand and support a broad range of teaching, research and creative innovation.

Multiple faculty and staff from UWT have been named as recipients of distinguished teaching and staff awards. Award winners will be given an honorarium and will be honored at a ceremony and dinner in early June.

Three cohorts of faculty fellows have been funded to conduct community engaged research projects. Faculty Fellows start their work in January and end December.

The School of Engineering and Technology has secured \$2.5m in congressionally directed funds for UW Tacoma to purchase equipment for mechanical and civil engineering lab spaces in Milgard Hall.

UWT has been accepted into KEEN (Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network), a national network dedicated to training engineers to have an entrepreneurial mindset. UW Tacoma is the only UW campus in the network and the only KEEN partner in Washington.

Equity - Promote and model inclusive excellence and social justice.

The Office of Equity and Inclusion, in partnership with Inclusive Excellence Ambassadors, has begun the process of developing a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Action Plan. The DEIB Action Plan will be informed by the 2020 Climate Survey results and recommendations, UW Tacoma Strategic Plan, UW Diversity Blueprint, and WA State Senate Bill 5227. We have contracted with Dr. William T. Lewis, founder and president of WillHouse Global, to support this important and transformative process. He completed a two-day campus visit in early April. In addition to engaging Inclusive Excellence Ambassadors and the Equity and Inclusion team in intensive working sessions, Dr. Lewis met with several members of the UWT administration, Chancellor's Cabinet, HR representatives, and students to listen and gather perspectives and recommendations that will further inform the DEIB Action Plan. He has continued to meet with more students, faculty, and staff virtually to ensure that all UWT constituents' voices are represented in the DEIB Action Plan. The Office of Equity and Inclusion will host campus community feedback sessions to gather feedback on the first draft of the Plan when it is ready.

Finalists for the UWT Tribal Liaison position will be on campus this month, with a goal of making an offer to the selected candidate before the end of the quarter. This person will work with the Native and Indigenous Student Success Specialists to develop and strengthen relationships with surrounding tribal communities.

Vitality - Build a thriving community that is welcoming and sustainable.

It is time to start planning for the January 2025 legislative session. UWT submitted three proposals for consideration to be included in the UW legislative request. Proposals from all three campuses will be reviewed and compiled into a single legislative package. We proposed to make the proviso funds received in the last session for student support services permanent; expand undergraduate and graduate nursing programs at UWT; and continue to build our capacity to support teaching and learning in science, technology engineering, mathematics (STEM).

Our proposed Housing & Dining project with a Public/Private/Partnership (P3) has been approved by the UW Capital Planning Advisory Team to move forward. The project will be on the capital projects list that will be presented to the Regents in June for approval. The process to create a request for qualifications to identify a partner is anticipated to take about 9 months. As of today, we are targeting autumn of 2028 as an opening date for the first purpose-built student housing and dining on the UW Tacoma campus.

We have selected the consulting firm that will work with us to facilitate the master campus planning process. The contract is currently being negotiated and the workplan for campus and community engagement will be determined in the coming month. We anticipate having a renewed master campus plan to present to the Regents for approval early in 2025.