

# Western Washington University

Active Minds **Changing Lives**



## Select Accomplishments and Accolades in 2010-11

U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks Western **the best public, master's-granting institution in the Pacific Northwest and the third among such universities from Texas to the Pacific.**

Western was named to three different national green college rankings based on its commitment to green building techniques, sustainability and the use of alternative energy sources. **The EPA lists Western as one of higher education's top purchasers of green energy.**

Western was recently named **one of the "Coolest Schools" in the country by the Sierra Club**, coming in at number 14.

G.I. Jobs magazine selected Western as a **"Military Friendly School" for the second year in a row**, placing it **in the top 15% of all higher education institutions nationwide.**

The Chronicle of Higher Education calls Western **one of the nation's**

**best college workplaces**, winning honors in collaborative governance, teaching environment, confidence in senior leadership, and tenure clarity and process.

Western earned the Carnegie Foundation's 2010 Community Engaged University classification, and was **one of only two universities in Washington state named to President Obama's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.** Last year, Western students, faculty and staff contributed over 750,000 hours of community service.

Western ranks **third in the nation among medium-sized universities sending graduates to the Peace Corps.** Since the Peace Corps began in 1961, 813 Western alumni have served as volunteers, including 60 in 2010-11.

**Western's record enrollment of nearly 15,000 students in fall 2010 included a record-high percentage of students of color**, increas-

ing to 19.3%, compared with 18.6% percent in fall 2009. Students of color comprise 23.5% of freshmen and 21.7% of transfers, also records for Western.

Western continues to be a **powerful engine of academic research and creative productivity:** Last year Western faculty published 33 books and 120 book chapters, edited 22 volumes, wrote 344 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 98 more articles in other journals, presented 552 conference papers and produced an amazing 1,178 performances, recordings and exhibits.

Last year faculty received 71 external grant awards totaling more than \$10 million. Current, active grants at Western total **more than \$43.5 million** in funds received to date

Faculty and students are engaged in cutting edge research projects exploring **cheaper, more efficient solar panels**, designs for a **light-weight hybrid bus**, new treatments

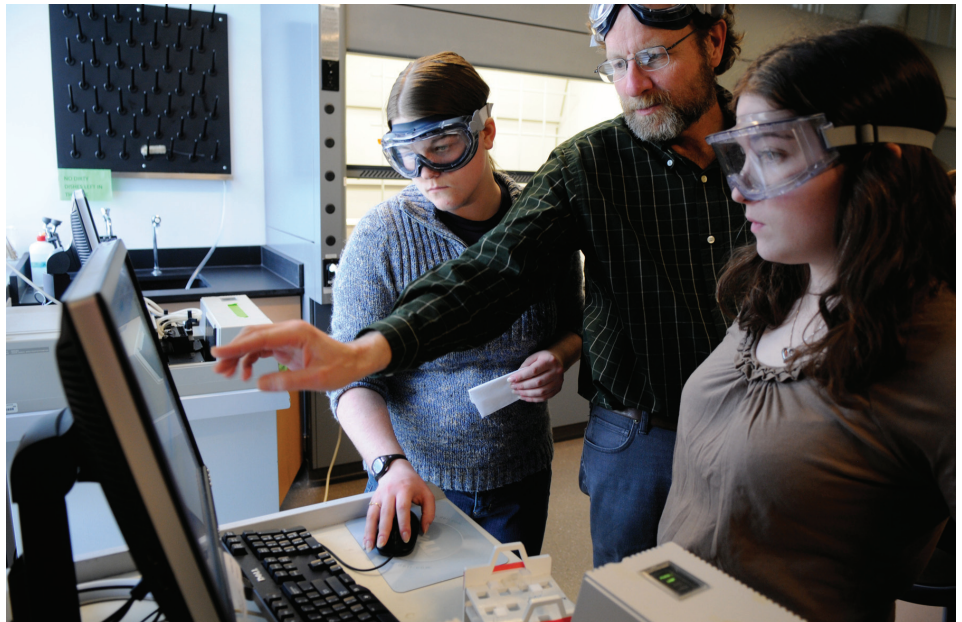
for **schizophrenia**, the ecological effects of removing the **Elwha River Dam**, **submarine volcano analysis**, and **faster movement of cargo** at the Canadian border.

University Advancement assumed responsibility for Western's endowment investments and, thanks to strong returns, **endowment assets and net assets have reached an all-time high of \$52 million**. This will result in a significant increase in scholarship and program support for Western students and faculty.

**The Associated Students Bookstore has added price comparison and online textbook rental options** to help students find the best values on textbooks. **Students can rent about 90 percent of the titles they need for 30, 60 or 90 days.**

Five projects have been slated to receive a total of \$264,900 from the new Green Energy Fee program administered by the Associated Students, including plans to install **solar panels on the Environmental Studies building**, to retrofit **LED lighting in the parking lots**, to replace paper towel dispensers with **high-speed air hand dryers in selected bathrooms around campus**, installing **water bottle refilling stations around campus**, hosting speakers and educational events related to the global water crisis and the bottled water industry, and implementing a **paper towel composting** project in Haggard Hall to collect organic waste.

In both state voter registration and school elections, the A.S. facilitated high levels of student engagement. The A.S. registered more than 4,000



students to vote and voter turnout in our spring elections for student government reached almost 30 percent, the second-highest turnout in the 103-year history of the organization.

Western is home to 2010-11 **national NCAA II champions** in women's javelin, men's pole vault (four in a row) and women's rowing (seven in a row). And, for the first time in its history, men's baseball won the regional playoffs and advanced to the eight-team double elimination round of the College World Series. **Western placed seventh nationally among 310 NCAA Division II schools in the final 2010-11 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup standings.**

**Western awarded its 100,000th degree** to Cultural Anthropology major Ariadne Alatraste Peña at fall Commencement.

**Western's Model United Nations team was named Outstanding Delegation at the National Model United Nations conference** in New York City. This was the sixth

time Western's Model U.N. team attended the conference and the second time it received Outstanding Delegation, the highest recognition.

The Dead Parrots Society, Western's student improv comedy team, **won the prestigious National College Improv Tournament in Chicago** making the first West Coast school to win the competition. Five Theatre Arts students also took **top honors at the Regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.**

Western's Center for Economic Vitality **helped 421 area businesses save or create more than 200 jobs** and obtain more than \$13.5 million in loans and new investments. CEV staff provided 3,517 hours of in-depth counseling and research—about 8 hours per client.



**For more examples of excellence at Western in 2010-11, see our University Relations Annual Report:**  
[news.wvu.edu/go/doctype/1538/37502/](http://news.wvu.edu/go/doctype/1538/37502/)