

**West Virginia State University Board of Governors
Meeting of April 28, 2011**

ITEM: WVSU Scholarship Initiative
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA OR SCHOOL: Finance and Student Affairs
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Informational
PRESENTED BY: Mr. Bryce Casto
Vice President for
Student Affairs

BACKGROUND:

Scholarship

West Virginia State University has developed a new scholarship initiative for the 2011-2012 academic year. The WVSU scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2,000 per year (\$1,000 per semester) to assist in the payment of tuition and fees for 100 qualified students. The purpose of the scholarship is increase enrollment of new full-time students at the University.

To be eligible for the scholarship a student must have a high school grade point average of 2.90 and attained an ACT composite score of at least 20 or equivalent. A student may retain the WVSU scholarship by attaining a minimum grade point average of 2.75 each semester and by reapplying for the scholarship each subsequent year. The WVSU scholarship may be awarded for a maximum of four years. The WVSU scholarship is not available to a student who has also been awarded a Promise Scholarship or a tuition waiver by the University.

The target audience of this scholarship program is residents of the State of West Virginia that narrowly missed eligibility for the Promise Scholarship. These students possess academic credentials which will likely promote retention and graduation rate enhancement of the University cohort. Out-of-state residents who meet the qualifying criteria will financially benefit more from the receipt of the tuition waiver.

West Virginia State University will establish a line for the scholarship in the University budget of \$200,000 in year one of the program peaking at \$800,000 at year 4 and thereafter. It is expected that this investment will be offset by revenue from enhanced retention of the University student population. The scholarship program will be administered by the Office of Finance in collaboration with the Office of Admissions, Office of Recruitment and the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Faculty Concerns

- Discussion of the future of WVSU
 - Institutional fundraising
 - Stagnant enrollment/lack of support for funding for recruitment
 - Insufficient base budget, lack of legislative support
 - Recommendations for institutional re-organization