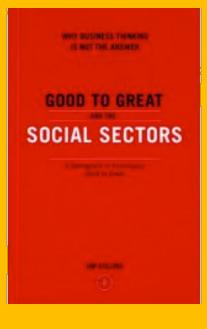


#### An Identity Assessment Presentation



August 28, 2007

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"Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice, and discipline."

> Jim Collins Author, Good to Great



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#### **Presentation Topics**

- Identity Project Objectives
- Research Methodology
- General Research Observations
  - Qualitative Research Key Take-Aways
  - Quantitative Research Findings
- Perceived Strengths of IWU
- Perceived Challenges of IWU

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- The Concept of Institutional Identity
- Conclusions & Recommendations
- Questions, Comments, Discussion

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#### Identity Project Objectives

- The Goals of the Research are to Better Understand:
  - what defines IWU's institutional culture and identity,
  - who is IWU in our own minds and in the opinion of key external constituencies,
  - what culture/identity issues exist and need to be addressed,
  - how to position IWU most effectively, and
  - how to deliver that positioning on a daily basis on and off campus.



### **Research Methodology**

- Project Briefing
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Qualitative Group Interviews
- Qualitative Identity Assessment Surveys
- Qualitative E-Queries
- Quantitative Web Surveys
- Secondary Research



LAWI



### **Research Methodology**

TLG Employed Both Qualitative & Quantitative Methodologies in This Identity Assessment Study

- Interviewed and surveyed 160 faculty, staff, students, administrators, and alumni
- Reviewed 97 e-query responses from trustees, guidance counselors, graduate school admission personnel, and employers
- Analyzed 3,363 quantitative surveys from faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, parents, and prospective students



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## Qualitative Research Take-Aways

#### **Current Descriptors of IWU:**

- Faculty & Staff: Strong student/faculty relationships, quality, challenging academics, welcoming, friendly community, prestigious/elite, friendly and caring faculty and staff, small, striving for better/evolving, beautiful campus and facilities, homogeneous student body, professional schools with liberal arts, liberal arts college with pre-professional programs, highly motivated students, Midwestern
- Students: Strong student/faculty relationships, supportive/dedicated, quality, challenging academics, opportunities, welcoming community, small, caring faculty





# Qualitative Research Take-Aways

**Current Descriptors of IWU (Continued):** 

- Trustees: Excellence/quality, relationships/community, experience and academics, small, liberal arts, friendly
- Alumni: Quality, challenging academics, respected, diverse, welcoming, friendly community, local
- High School Counselors: Academics, excellent music/theatre programs, selective admissions, small, friendly community, beautiful campus, excellent facilities, student-centered/ personal attention, and liberal arts focus
- Graduate & Professional School Contacts: Excellence/ quality, private/elite, liberal arts, and small/personal
- Employers: Great, esteemed, traditional, caliber of the students, influence of the IWU faculty and career services



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### Qualitative Research Take-Aways

**Trustees Identified the Following as Signature Features or Programs That Distinguish IWU:** 

- Small classes
- Good faculty-to-student ratio
- Strong, caring faculty
- Giving students freedom to grow, explore and become "whole people"
- Liberal arts focus with professional school opportunities





#### Qualitative Research Take-Aways IWU's Strengths:

- Faculty & Staff: Excellent, dedicated, caring personnel; high performing, talented students; campus and facilities; leadership; small size; challenging and excellent academics and programs; student-centered; sense of community; calendar/May Term; professional schools within a liberal arts environment
- Trustees: Committed, intelligent faculty, staff, leadership and administration; the academically strong student body; the sound, well-rounded education and academic programs; the opportunities to develop the whole student; the size of the University and the community it creates; beautiful campus and facilities





#### Qualitative Research Take-Aways IWU's Strengths (Continued):

- High School Counselors: Small size and the personal involvement of the faculty that comes with that size; strong academics; great location; beautiful, up-to-date campus; personnel
- Alumni: Excellent, caring, engaged personnel; high performing, talented students; campus and facilities; small; challenging academics; network of supportive alumni; reputation/respected institution





#### Qualitative Research Take-Aways IWU's Challenges:

• Faculty & Staff: Financial resources (cost of education, keeping up with salaries); human resources; defining ourselves/marketing; diversity; upgrading facilities; communication; attracting and retaining quality faculty

• Trustees: The endowment and generating income; student aid; funding programs and avoiding the proliferation of programs; affordable tuition; attracting and retaining quality faculty; building new facilities; increasing diversity of students and faculty; successfully differentiating and communicating externally





#### Qualitative Research Take-Aways IWU's Challenges (Continued):

- Alumni: Financials (staying affordable, endowment); identity/marketing/name recognition; upgrading facilities
- High School Counselors: The location; cost; lack of diversity





# Qualitative Research Take-Aways

- Why Current Students Selected IWU:
  - Small classes and campus
  - Programs and academics
  - Interaction with professors
  - Easy involvement
  - Well-known, reputation
  - Facilities/campus
  - Helpful, caring faculty and staff
  - Financial aid/scholarships
  - Felt at home during my campus visit
  - Location
  - Friendly community

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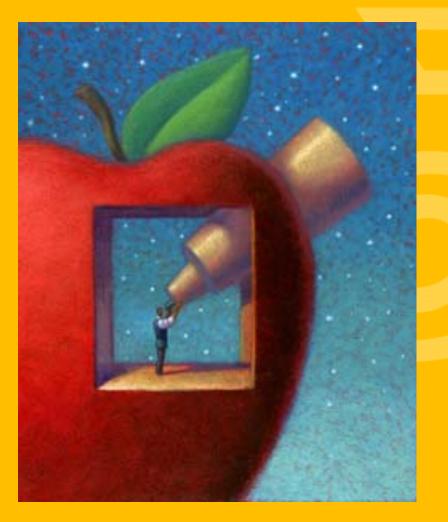
Qualitative Research Take-Aways Trustees and High School Counselors were asked if they view IWU as a top regional or national university:

- Trustees are split between wanting the University to be national and regional, but a slightly greater number of Trustees say the University should be a regional one. Reasons include resources being spread too thin, that it is more important to be a regional university, or that IWU is unlikely to be recognized as a national university. Reasons some desire IWU to be a national university include increased diversity and the feeling that the University should be placed against other larger universities.
- High School Counselors categorize Illinois Wesleyan as a top regional university because it lacks a national reputation as well as due to its location.



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# Quantitative Research Findings



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The Most Frequently Used Sources of Information for Prospective Students in Their College Search are:

- Brochures, mailings (93%)
- College/university website (84%)
- Parents (66%)
- Friends/other high school students (66%)
- Current college student (45%)
- High school teacher (42%)
- College guidebooks (42%)
- High school guidance counselors (40%)





The Most Important Variables for Prospective Students in Consideration of Various Institutions are:

- The overall quality of campus facilities
- The institution offers my major
- Overall academic reputation
- There is good academic advising
- Overall reputation of the institution is strong
- Overall reputation in my major area of interest





#### Quantitative Research Findings The Most Important Variables for Current Students in Selecting IWU Over Other Schools are:

- The overall quality of campus facilities
- The size is ideal
- Faculty have close relationships with students
- The atmosphere is friendly
- My campus visit allowed me to see myself at IWU
- Reputation as a top regional university





The Most Important Variables for Parents in Selecting IWU Over Other Schools are:

- The overall quality of campus facilities
- Faculty have close relationships with students
- Reputation as a top regional university
- The atmosphere is friendly
- The campus visit allowed my son/daughter to see him/herself at IWU
- The size is ideal





When Rating IWU Against Various Competitors, Faculty & Staff, Students, Parents and Alumni Said IWU is Better Than:

- Knox College
- Augustana College (Illinois)
- Beloit College
- DePauw University (except Parents, who said University of Illinois)





When Rating IWU Against Various Competitors, Faculty & Staff, Students, Parents and Alumni Said the Following are Better Than IWU:

- Northwestern University
- University of Chicago
- University of Notre Dame
- Washington University





#### **Quantitative Research Findings** Faculty & Staff Identified the Following as Signature Features or Programs That They Believe Distinguish IWU:

- Specific majors
- Small classes or size
- High quality teaching/great faculty and staff
- High quality students
- Liberal arts education
- Good location and facilities
- High academic standards



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Quantitative Research Findings According to Faculty & Staff, Students, Alumni and Parents, the Top Ranked Attribute Ratings for IWU are:

- Small class size allows for personalization and active student participation
- Students receive personal attention from the faculty
- Friendliness of campus community
- Intellectually challenging academic programs
- Academic quality of the students
- Success of graduates
- Ability to prepare students for top graduate/ professional schools



Quantitative Research Findings According to Faculty & Staff, Students, Alumni and Parents, the Lowest Ranked Attribute Ratings for

IWU are:

- Geographic diversity of the student body
- Economic diversity of the student body
- Ethnic diversity of the student body
- Overall diversity of the student body
- Ethnic diversity of the staff
- Overall diversity of the staff
- Ethnic diversity of the faculty



- Over Three-Fourths of Students Said They Would Enroll Again.
- Reasons Given Include:
  - "Just like the IWU experience"; "Love it"
  - Felt welcomed/friendly place
  - Fits me perfectly/love it here
  - Small size
  - Wonderful community
  - Challenging/good academics
  - Personal attention
  - Extracurricular experiences





- IWU Has Surpassed Some or All of the Expectations of Over Half (54%) of Students.
- Student Expectations That Hadn't Been Met Include:
  - Not enough diversity
  - Difficult/poor registration process
  - Can't get needed classes
  - Need better advising/better guidance
  - Faculty not caring/not focused on student needs
  - Poor housing





#### Quantitative Research Findings Satisfaction Index & Improvement Potential

A statistical approach was used to determine how important the attributes were to respondents. The results show where IWU should put its improvement efforts.





#### Quantitative Research Findings Satisfaction Index & Improvement Potential

- A regression analysis was run with the factors and the dependent variable to measure the strength of the relationship between them. Overall Satisfaction with the experience at IWU was used as the dependent variable for each group: Faculty & Staff, Current Students, Current Parents, and Alumni.
- Individual Satisfaction Index (SI) scores were then calculated by weighting the attribute ratings by each of their respective SI beta weights and combining these weighted scores to produce an overall SI score. SI scores range from 0 to 100 with 100 perfect score or ALL attributes being rated 10 by ALL respondents.





#### Quantitative Research Findings Satisfaction Index & Improvement Potential

• Statistical methods were used to show which attributes should be targeted in order to raise the SI score the maximum amount (i.e, the Improvement Potential Score). The IPS is calculated by taking the difference between the SI score and the optimum score (100), and allocating it to the attributes based on their SI beta weights and performance ratings. The IPS score for each attribute is the amount of improvement in the overall SI score that *could* be attained if the individual attribute score was perfect. IPS scores can be used to plan where to conduct improvement efforts.



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#### Quantitative Research Findings

- Faculty & Staff SI = 69.1
- Current Student SI = 72.6
- Current Parent SI = 78.4
- Alumni SI = 80.1



#### **Attributes With the Highest Potential to Improve the Faculty & Staff SI Include:**

- Opportunities for staff to develop professionally
- Internally promotes a shared understanding of the University's identity
- Faculty and staff respect one another
- Produces nationally regarded student scholars
- Overall diversity of the staff
- Use of technology in courses
- Encourage students to take intellectual risks
- Opportunities for faculty to develop professionally
- Faculty actively publish in their fields
- Reputation in the liberal arts





#### Quantitative Research Findings Attributes With the Highest Potential to Improve the Student SI Include:

- Produces nationally regarded student scholars
- Advising that helps me map out my academic program and complete it in four years
- A creative and innovative curriculum
- Adjunct faculty who are knowledgeable and engaging teachers
- Produces well-rounded graduates
- Service learning opportunities
- Success of graduates
- Overall diversity of the faculty
- Full-time faculty who are knowledgeable and engaging teachers

llinois Wesleyan Use of technology in courses

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#### Quantitative Research Findings Attributes With the Highest Potential to Improve the Parent SI Include:

- Advising that helps me map out my academic program and complete it in four years
- Students receive personal attention from the staff
- Student/admin services that are helpful and responsive
- Full-time faculty who are knowledgeable and engaging teachers

- Students receive personal attention from the faculty

- Opportunities for students to collaborate with faculty on scholarly and creative projects

- The emphasis of the faculty is on teaching
- A creative and innovative curriculum
- Global awareness and consciousness

ois Wesleyan Service learning opportunities

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#### Quantitative Research Findings Attributes With the Highest Potential to Improve the Alumni SI Include:

- Reputation of its faculty
- Career guidance that helps students prepare to pursue employment
- Overall reputation of the university
- Community service/civic engagement
- Attractive and desirable residential/housing options
- Encourages students to take intellectual risks
- Academic quality of the students
- A creative and innovative curriculum
- Strong intellectual climate
- Full-time faculty who are knowledgeable and engaging teachers

- Advising that helps students map out their academic <u>UNIVERS</u> programs and complete them in four years Copyright The Lawlor Group 2007 INTELLIGENT MARKETING SOLUTIONS FOR EDUCATION



### **Quantitative Research Findings**

Q: Check to the extent that words or phrases describe IWU.

Isolated	Safe	<b>Career-oriented</b>	Selective	Comfortable	Religious
Quiet	Prestigious	Well-known	Intellectual	Fun	Top tier
Successful graduates	Athletics- oriented	Tolerant of differences	Personal attention	Politically liberal	Academically challenging
Supportive	Back-up school	Expensive	Friendly	Affordable	Spiritual
Tradition rich	Party school	Welcoming	Cliquish	Clean	Small
Ethnically diverse	Strong national reputation	Changing for the better	Cohesive community	Globally aware	Homogeneous
Civic-minded	Ethical, moral	Great teaching	Innovative	Strict	Midwestern
More of a small university than a liberal arts college	Environmentally aware	Liberal arts emphasis	Politically conservative	Professional program- oriented	Strong regional reputation
Fine arts- oriented	Service-oriented	Student- centered	Boring	Соругі	ght The Lawlor Group 2007

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### Quantitative Research Findings

**Descriptors That** Currently Describe IWU Include:

Faculty & Staff
Small
Clean
Friendly
Strong regional
reputation
Expensive
Safe
Welcoming
Personal attention



**Descriptors That** Currently Describe IWU Include:

Faculty & Staff	Students		
Small	Expensive		
Clean	Small		
Friendly	Academically		
	challenging		
Strong regional	Clean		
reputation			
Expensive	Intellectual		
Safe	<b>Personal attention</b>		
Welcoming	Liberal arts		
	emphasis		
Personal attention	Friendly		



**Descriptors That** Currently Describe IWU Include:

Faculty & Staff	Students	<b>Current Parents</b>		
Small	Expensive	Academically challenging		
Clean	Small	Small		
Friendly	Academically challenging	Friendly		
Strong regional reputation	Clean	Intellectual		
Expensive	Intellectual	Clean		
Safe	Personal attention	Welcoming		
Welcoming	Liberal arts emphasis	Safe		
Personal attention	Friendly	Selective		



**Descriptors That** Currently Describe IWU Include:

Faculty & Staff	Students	<b>Current Parents</b>	Alumni	
Small	Expensive	Academically challenging	Clean	
Clean	Small	Small	Small	
Friendly	Academically challenging	Friendly	Personal attention	
Strong regional reputation	Clean	Intellectual	Academically challenging	
Expensive	Intellectual	Clean	Friendly	
Safe	Personal attention	Welcoming	Safe	
Welcoming	Liberal arts emphasis	Safe	Comfortable	
Personal attention	Friendly	Selective	Intellectual	



**Descriptors That** Currently Describe IWU Include:

Faculty & Staff	Students	<b>Current Parents</b>	Alumni	Prospective Students	
Small	Expensive	Academically challenging	Clean	Midwestern	
Clean	Small	Small	Small	Ethical, moral	
Friendly	Academically challenging	Friendly	Personal a <mark>ttention</mark>	Small	
Strong regional reputation	Clean	Intellectual	Academically challenging	Friendly	
Expensive	Intellectual	Clean	<b>Friendly</b>	Religious	
Safe	Personal attention	Welcoming	Safe	Personal attention	
Welcoming	Liberal arts emphasis	Safe	Comfortable	Spiritual	
Personal attention	Friendly	Selective	Intellectual	Intellectual	



Q: What do you want IWU to be known for?

Safe	Well-known	Selective	Intellectual	Religious	Supportive
Service- oriented	Career-oriented	Athletics- oriented	Politically liberal	Politically conservative	Comfortable
Successful graduates	Tolerant of difference	Personal attention	Ethnically diverse	Academically challenging	Fine arts- oriented
Expensive	Friendly	Affordable	Spiritual	Fun	Welcoming
Prestigious	Clean	Small	Quiet	Strict	<b>Midwestern</b>
Tradition rich	Homogeneous	Ethical, moral	Great teaching	Entrepreneurial	Innovative
Changing for the better	Environmentally aware	Cohesive community	Liberal arts emphasis	Student- centered	Strong national reputation
Strong regional reputation	More of a small university than a liberal arts college	Top tier	Professional program- oriented	Civic-minded Copyri	Globally aware

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## Quantitative Research Findings

Aspirational Descriptors for IWU:

<b>Faculty &amp; Staff</b>
Academically challenging
Great teaching
Successful graduates
Welcoming
Friendly
Supportive
Personal attention
Student-centered

Intellectual

Illinois Wesleyan

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### Quantitative Research Findings

Aspirational Descriptors for IWU:

Faculty & Staff	Students
Academically challenging	Academically challenging
Great teaching	Prestigious
Successful graduates	Successful graduates
Welcoming	Intellectual
Friendly	Personal attention
Supportive	Great teaching
Personal attention	Welcoming
Student-centered	Friendly
Intellectual	Safe



Aspirational Descriptors for IWU:

Faculty & Staff	Students	<b>Current Parents</b>
Academically challenging	Academically challenging	Academically challenging
Great teaching	Prestigious	Successful graduates
Successful graduates	Successful graduates	Great teaching
Welcoming	Intellectual	Safe
Friendly	Personal attention	Personal attention
Supportive	Great teaching	Supportive
Personal attention	Welcoming	Welcoming
Student-centered	Friendly	Student-centered
Intellectual	Safe	<b>Friendly</b>



Aspirational Descriptors for IWU:

Faculty & Staff	Students	<b>Current Parents</b>	Alumni
Academically challenging	Academically challenging	Academically challenging	Academically challenging
Great teaching	Prestigious	Successful graduates	Successful graduates
Successful graduates	Successful graduates	Great teaching	Great teaching
Welcoming	Intellectual	Safe	Personal attention
Friendly	Personal attention	Personal attention	Welcoming
Supportive	Great teaching	Supportive	Friendly
Personal attention	Welcoming	Welcoming	Student-centered
Student-centered	Friendly	Student-centered	Supportive
Intellectual	Safe	Friendly	Prestigious



#### Quantitative Research Findings Faculty & Staff Suggestions for Short-Term Focus:

- Improve compensation
- Increase resources
- Increase endowment/control costs/lower tuition and dependence on it
- Increase diversity
- Hire more teachers and increase quality
- Strengthen liberal arts core





#### Quantitative Research Findings Faculty & Staff Suggestions for Long-Term Focus:

- Improve diversity
- Economic stability while remaining affordable
- Improve academic rigor
- Improve salaries
- Increase the endowment
- Expand the campus/facilities



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#### **Quantitative Research Findings** About a Quarter (27%) of Alumni Surveyed Say They are Very/ Somewhat Involved With IWU.

	1959 or prior	1960-1 969	1970-1 979	1980-1 989	1990-1 999	2000-2 006
Very Uninvolved	<b>29</b> %	44%	34%	37%	42%	25%
Somewhat Uninvolved	31%	26%	31%	38%	42%	46%
Somewhat Involved	34%	27%	27%	21%	14%	25%
Very Involved	5%	3%	8%	5%	3%	4%

Alumni Level of Involvement by Year of Graduation





- The Great Majority of Alumni (89%) Feel IWU Communicates With Them Somewhat or Very Effectively.
- Major Sources of Information Include:
  - IWU Magazine (92%)
  - IWU E-mail Newsletter (78%)
  - IWU Website (50%)
  - Friends who went to IWU (42%)
  - Class Newsletter (38%)
  - Fraternity/Sorority Communications (23%)



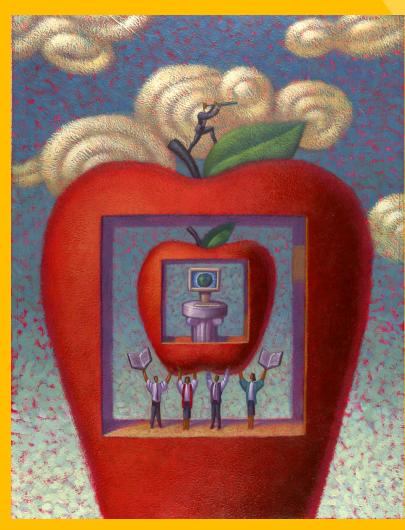


#### Quantitative Research Findings The Majority of Respondents Felt IWU is Living Its Mission.

- 55% of Faculty & Staff
- 72% of Students
- 69% of Alumni







# Perceived Strengths & Challenges of Illinois Wesleyan





### Perceived Strengths

• Challenging Academics, Blending Liberal Arts with Professional Schools

- Academically Strong and Multitalented Student Body
- Levels of Student Satisfaction are High in Most Areas
- Location is Advantageous from Several Perspectives
- Advantages of Size are Being Leveraged
- Reputation is Strong Within the State





## **Perceived Strengths**

- Campus and Its Facilities are Attractive
- Veteran and Professional Admission Staff
- Presidential Leadership is Well Received
- Successful Athletic Programs Draw Positive Awareness
- Solid Signature Programs Provide Distinction





## **Perceived Challenges**

 Lack of Consensus About Institutional Identity has the Potential to Negatively Impact Marketing and Communications Efforts

• Depth and Breadth of Diversity has Not Been Achieved Across the Campus Community

• Financial Realities Impede Desired Spending



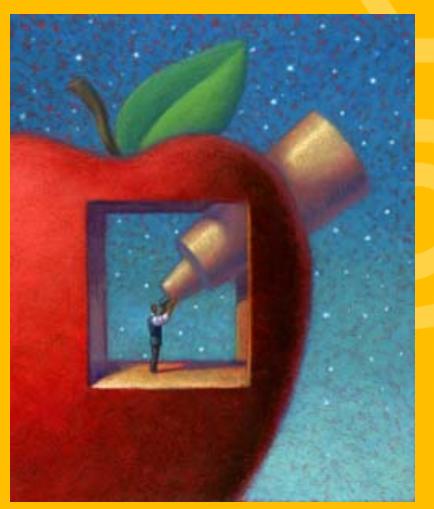


## Perceived Challenges

- Academic Advising is an Area of Dissatisfaction
- Alumni Engagement is Lagging
- Leadership Team is in Transition







# Let's Look at the Concept of Institutional Identity





#### AN INSTITUTIONAL PROMISE IS SUPPORTED BY THREE KEY MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

#### IDENTITY/POSITIONING Determining What You Want Your Promise to Be

#### **COMMUNICATION**

Creating an Expectation in the Individual's Mind of What the Promise Is

#### OPERATIONS Delivering the Promise







A Collective Sense of Identity **Creates Distinction** Because the Entire Organization is More **Intentional About the Shared Values** It Projects to the Marketplace.



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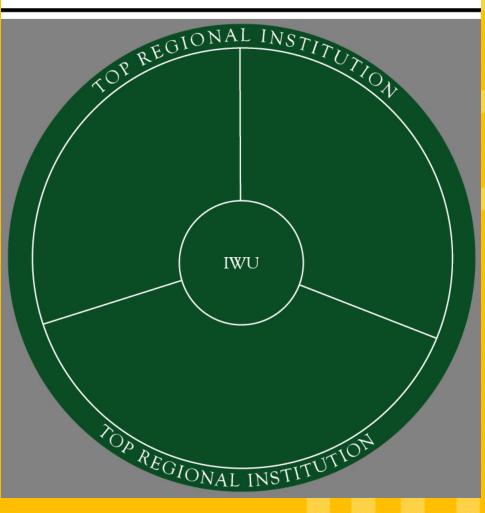


# Illinois Wesleyan's Institutional Identity: Current & Aspirational

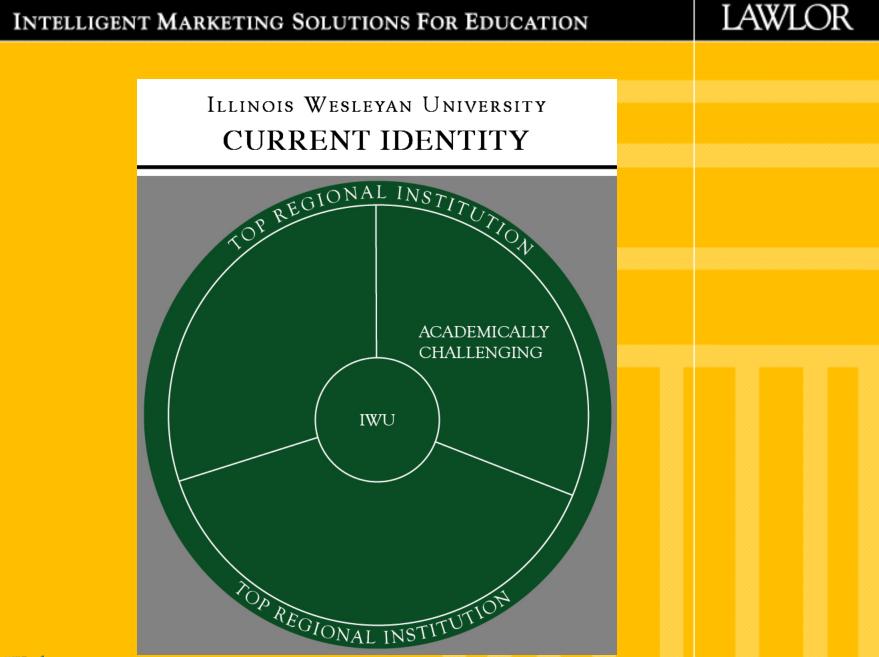




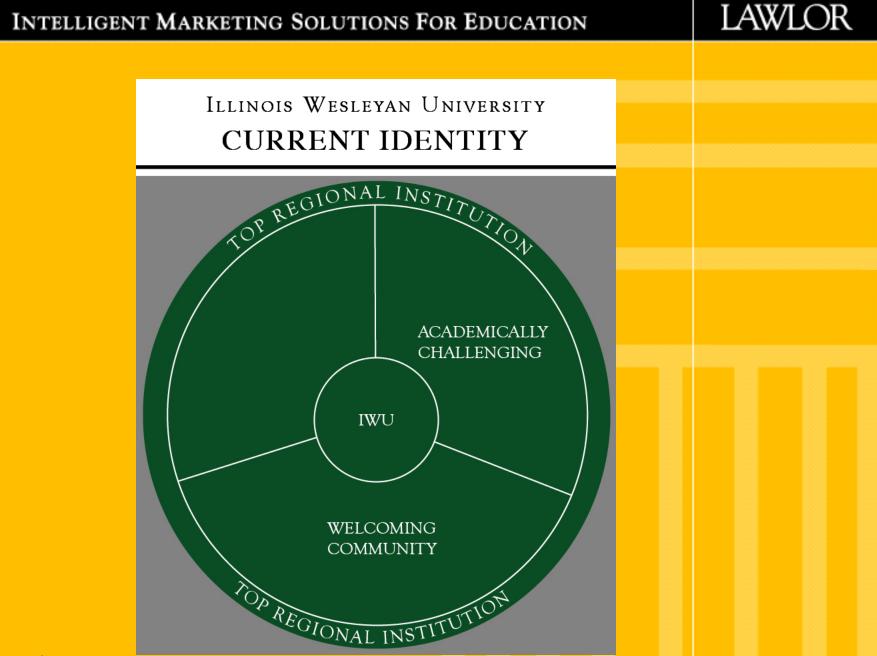
#### Illinois Wesleyan University CURRENT IDENTITY





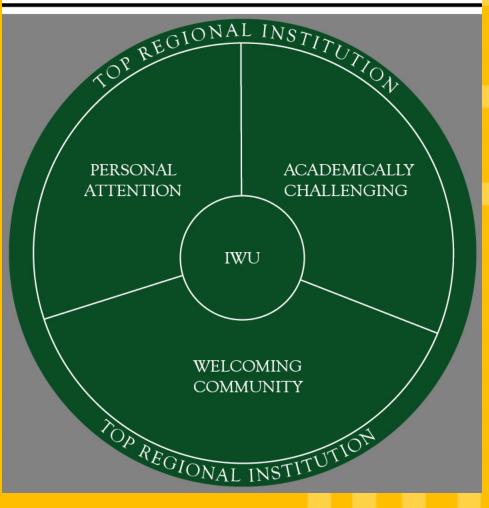






Illinois Wesleyan

#### CURRENT IDENTITY



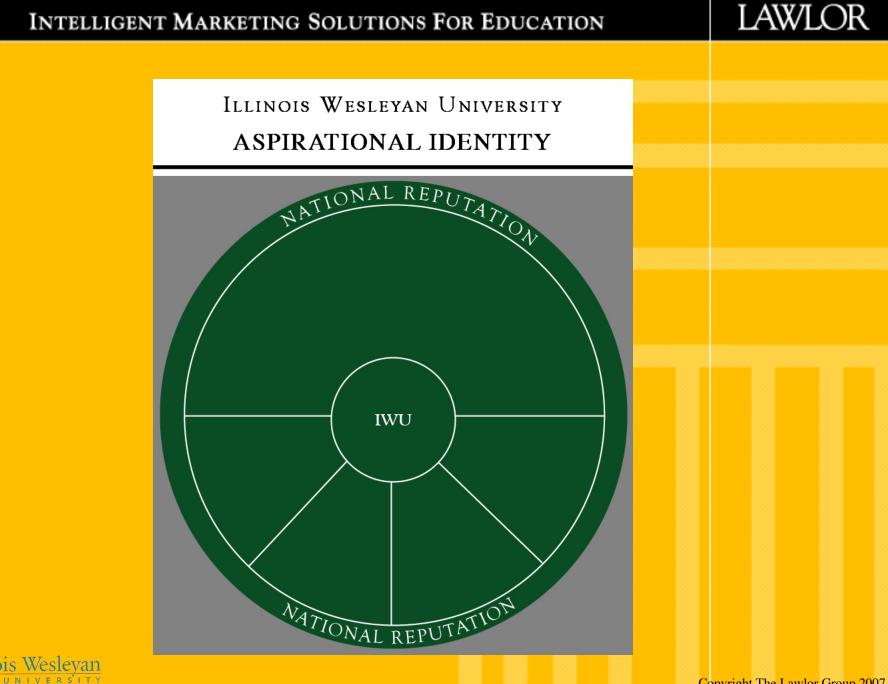




#### Illinois Wesleyan University CURRENT IDENTITY

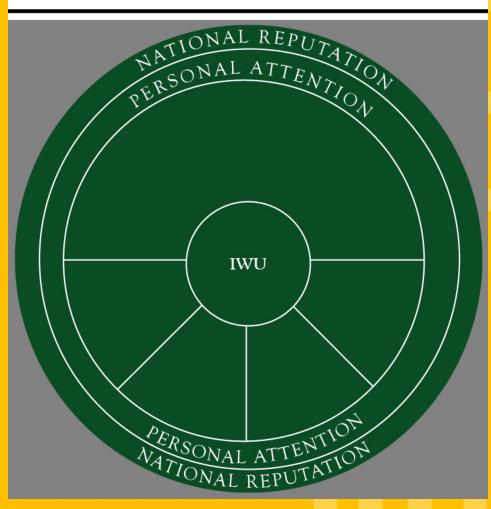






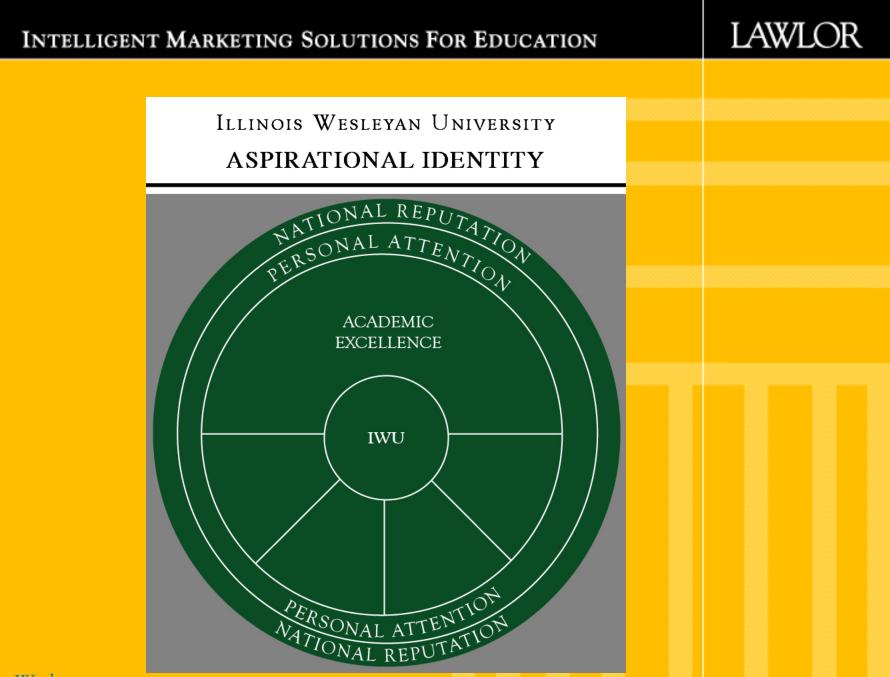


#### Illinois Wesleyan University ASPIRATIONAL IDENTITY





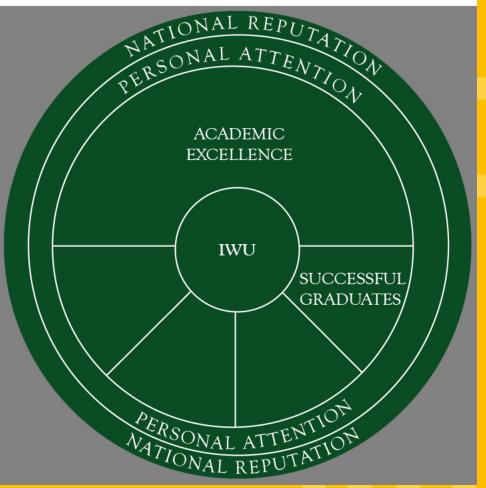
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#### Illinois Wesleyan University ASPIRATIONAL IDENTITY



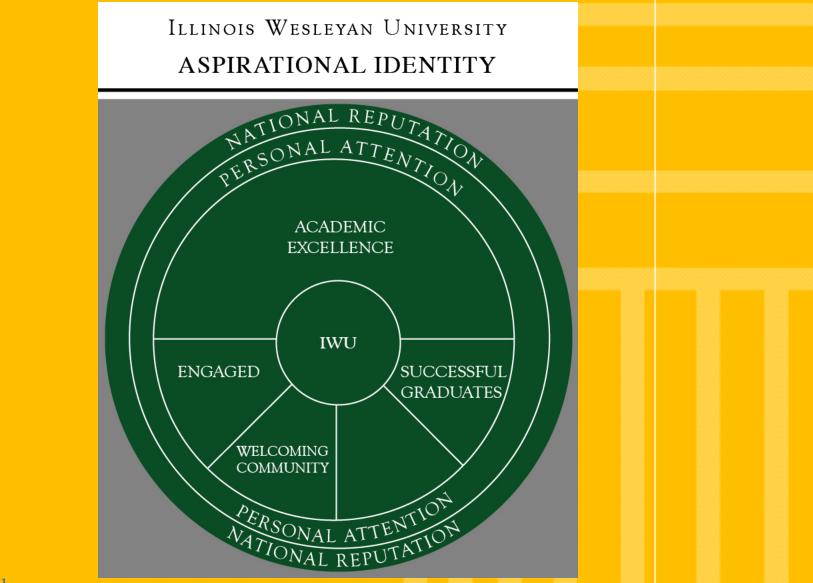




#### Illinois Wesleyan University **ASPIRATIONAL IDENTITY** NATIONAL REPUTATION NATIONAL ATTENTION ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IWU SUCCESSFUL ENGAGED GRADUATES PERSONAL ATTENTION NATIONAL REPUTATION

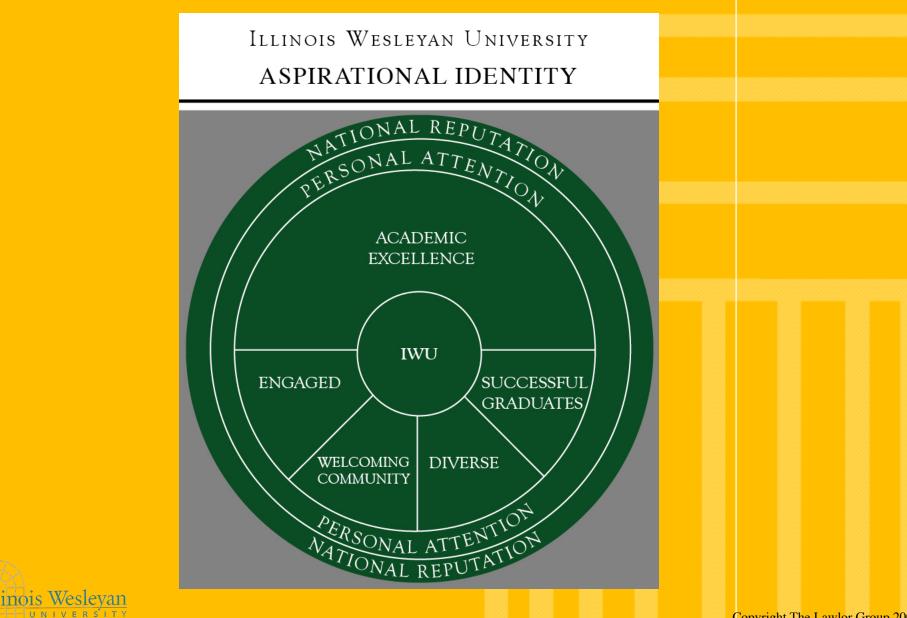






Illinois Wesleyan









# Putting the Pieces Together

# Conclusions & Recommendations



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# **Planning Considerations**

• The power of word-of-mouth marketing, particularly among influencers (parents, friends, alumni, employers, relatives), is a marketing tool that is very important.

• The Web site is a key source of information for many external audiences. The increasing number of stealth buyers means that a school's Web site is one of the most important touchpoints.





## **Planning Considerations**

• Outcomes (successful graduates) are a key consideration in selecting a college.

• Size, and its accompanying attributes, is a differentiator and a mark of distinction. It is of utmost importance to establish and associate value with an education that is personal and individualized.





Planning Considerations
Sensory cues, curb appeal, and campus atmospherics play a significant role in

influencing perceptions of value and worth among prospective students and families.





**Recommendations** • The Entire Campus Community Must Establish, Plan, Implement and Manage a Consistent Institutional Identity.

- Academic Excellence
- Successful Graduates
- Engaged
- Welcoming Community
- Diverse
- Personal Attention
- National Reputation





Consistently and Intentionally Focus
 Marketing and Messaging Efforts on Academic
 Excellence and Successful Graduates, Rather
 Than on Whether or Not Illinois Wesleyan is a
 Liberal Arts or a Pre-Professional Institution.

 Develop a New Creative Direction (Design/ Editorial) That More Accurately Expresses
 Illinois Wesleyan's Aspirational Identity and That is Integrated Across All Marketing Channels and Media.





• Develop Authentic and Intentional Content (Words and Photos) that Better Represents Illinois Wesleyan's Aspirational Identity and that Particularly Emphasizes and Highlights Academic Excellence, Successful Graduates, an Engaged Community, and the Benefits of IWU's Size and Location.

• Give Special Consideration to Content Variables Like Geographic Representation (National), Ethnic Diversity, Community Engagement, Successful Graduates, Academic Rigor, and Campus Setting and Location.



 Increase National Awareness for Illinois Wesleyan by Using Content and Disseminating Messages That are Relevant to National Constituents and by Engaging in Increased Marketing Activities That are More National in Reach and Scope.

• Develop an Institutional Plan with Organizational Intent for Improving the Diversity of the Faculty & Staff and Students at Illinois Wesleyan.





• Improve Academic Advising so That It Better Represents Illinois Wesleyan's Overall Academic Excellence and Track Record of Successful Graduates.

• Improve the Cultivation and Engagement of Illinois Wesleyan Alumni in Order to Build Off of the High Levels of Existing Alumni Satisfaction and to Further Expand IWU's National Reach and Familiarity.







# Questions, Comments & Discussion



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