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A Profile of Selected Characteristics of the Spring 1990 Western Washington University Graduating Class

Jacqueline M. Andrieu-Parker
Western Washington University

Joseph E. Trimble
Western Washington University

Gary (Gary Russell) McKinney
Western Washington University

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Report 1990-01: A Profile of Selected Characteristics of the Spring 1990 Western Washington University Graduating Class

This report contains analysis of data obtained from the Student Tracking System maintained jointly by the Registrar's Office and the Office of Institutional Assessment and Testing. Western graduated 991 students in June of 1990. A majority were female (56%) and transfer students (56%); most were Caucasians (83%) and Washington State residents (95%). Ethnic-minority students comprised 6% of the graduates and were mostly transfers (70%).

Three different gpa's were analyzed: high school, transfer, and Western. June, 1990, graduates had a mean high school gpa of 3.19, a mean transfer gpa of 3.01, and a mean Western gpa of 3.08. Females earned higher gpa's than males in all three categories. Most other comparisons showed little differentiation, except in two areas: disabled students had a considerable improvement from transfer to Western gpa; and older students had a dramatic improvement from high school to Western gpa.

A majority of June, 1990, graduates studied in the College of Arts & Sciences (64%). A considerably higher percentage of males than females graduated from the College of Business & Economics; a considerably higher percentage of females than males graduated from the Woodring College of Education.

June, 1990, graduates spent an average of 12 quarters at Western. Credits were transferred from other institutions not only by transfer students, but by 45% of the 1990 native (students who began their college education at Western) graduates as well. Most graduates earned a BA degree.

The second half of the report analyzed information gathered from the CIRP survey taken in 1985 by 70 of the June, 1990, graduates. That survey indicated, among other points, that the fathers of those graduates

were mostly better educated than the mothers, but that female graduates had better educated mothers than their male counterparts.

The CIRP survey indicated, as well, that in 1985 a majority of the 1990 graduates were politically middle-of-the-road. To the question regarding personal objectives, the most frequent response of "very important" to a list of prompts was to become an authority in the student's chosen field of study. As to why they chose to attend college, all responded with "very important" to two reasons: 1) to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas; and 2) to "learn about things that interest me." When asked to rate themselves personally on a list of traits, the ranking of "above average or highest 10%" occurred most frequently in the area of academic ability.