Presidential Election

By: Jordan Smith

Western State Colorado University has been undergoing multiple changes lately, one of the most influential being the change in president of the university. The process took months and only recently were the final two candidates selected. One candidate, Dr. Gregory Salsbury, was on campus over the spring semester of 2014 and attended an open interview session with students in Rare Air Café.

Dr. Salsbury worked for the Jackson National Life Insurance Company. He has a Ph.D. in Organizational Communication from the University of Southern California, M.A. in Communication Management from Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, M.A. in Communication from the University of Illinois, and a B.S. in Speech Communication and Psychology from Southern Illinois University. He has also authored multiple books.

His intentions for Western include using the “relative size and isolation” of the school to its greatest advantage, potentially increasing online education opportunities, and bringing in more faculty with experiences to share. Many students attend Western because of the location and class sizes, as well as the very personable faculty. The goals he has set are meant to expand upon Western’s great qualities.

The second candidate, Mr. David Morgan, visited the following weekend. He is currently the Vice President of Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, MA, and General Manager of Perkins Products. He has a M.B.A. from the University of New Hampshire and a B.S. in Business Management from Daniel Webster College. He also has publications on the literacy of braille.

Mr. Morgan’s intentions for the school include improving campus diversity, building the market on which Western currently rests by getting more involved with the local community and businesses, as well as bringing in more “entrepreneurship and business” into the curriculum to give students opportunities outside of Western. His goals share the same quality as Dr. Salsbury’s - to improve upon what already exists.

The information on these candidates was not private. On Western’s website there was a page dedicated to make students aware of the process, allowing them access to the candidates’ interview questions and answers. There was also a page dedicated to the presidential prospectus which lists all the qualities and expectations the candidates must meet. For those curious, more information can be found at <http://www.western.edu/about/presidential-search>.