University takes proactive approach to anticipated state budget cuts

Marshall University has announced it is taking immediate steps to prepare for expected cuts to its state budget allocation for next year.

A freeze on hiring of non-mission critical personnel and a sweep of some revenue accounts are two measures President Stephen J. Kopp outlined in a message sent to university faculty and staff yesterday.

“All of us are aware of the significant financial challenges facing our state. It is in the news every day,” Kopp wrote. “State tax revenues continue to fall and it looks increasingly likely that the state will end this budget year in the red. Although the state budget for next year has not yet been finalized, we do not anticipate that this outlook will improve…. These actions will conserve important resources, while providing the flexibility we need to fulfill our strategic priorities and our public mission.”

Click to read the president’s full message on his website.

Marshall faculty member named top researcher in her field

Dr. Jennifer Mak of the Marshall University School of Kinesiology was recently named the No. 1 leading contributor to research in the discipline of leisure and recreation for the past 20 years.

Top researchers were recognized by the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Mak was acknowledged as a high-visibility researcher in the 2013 issue of the Measurement in Physical Education and Exercise Science Journal. Lead author of the study, Dr. Bradley
Cardinal of Oregon State University, said the Research Consortium is one of the most recognized and respected research societies in the U.S.

“Dr. Mak was one of five women honored with this recognition which is a tribute to her ongoing contribution to the organization,” Cardinal said. “She was chosen based on the continued frequency of her publications and presentations at the conference level.”

Since August 2000, Mak has been director of sport management and a full professor in the Marshall University School of Kinesiology. In addition to being one of five women recognized, Mak was one of four international scholars identified in the study. As a prolific researcher, she has more than 50 refereed publications and book chapters in highly respected journals across the world. Mak’s research centers on applied behavioral science with a focus in consumer behaviors, sports and marketing management as well as organizational behavior in the sport and leisure industry.

Dr. Michael W. Prewitt, dean of the College of Health Professions at Marshall University, said he is very pleased Mak was recognized by AAHPERD.

“Many researchers who received this honor represent Research I universities who engage in extensive research activity,” Prewitt said. “The fact she has been able to sustain such a productive research program over an extended period of time says a lot about the level of commitment she has to her chosen discipline.”

Mak said the key to her commitment is intrinsic motivation.

“You have to be able to motivate yourself from within,” Mak said. “I was doing the research because I enjoyed doing so. I feel it is very rewarding to be recognized by the colleagues in my field.”

The next issue of We Are…Marshall will be distributed April 17, 2013. Please send any materials for consideration to Pat Dickson by noon, April 15.