

Overview

I.1 Summarize the institution's mission, historical context, and unique characteristics (e.g., land grant, HBCU or religious) [4,000 characters]

Northwest Missouri State University (Northwest) is a coeducational, primarily residential four-year public, not-for-profit university located in Maryville, MO, a town of approximately 12,000. The University serves a 19 county region covering 9,621 square miles, an area slightly larger than the state of Vermont. Total population for the 19-county region is 583,108 and is 90% is white, 4.2% African American, 4.2% Hispanic and 5.6% “other” or multiracial (exhibit I.5.a.1 19 Co. Area Map/Data). Census data from Oct. 2012 show Northwest enrolled 6014 undergraduate and 815 graduate students; 1344 undergraduate and 373 graduate candidates were officially admitted to the Professional Education Program (PEP) (St. 1 exhibit 1.4.b.8 PEDS Reports 2013).

Founded in 1905, as Missouri’s Fifth District Normal School, Northwest’s primary mission was the preparation of teachers. In the beginning, many students that enrolled were already teaching in rural schools, enrolling to acquire certification and ensure the standardization of education within Missouri. Today, teacher preparation remains an integral part of Northwest’s mission and is a university-wide responsibility. Northwest offers 38 initial certification programs, 7 programs for other school professionals, 5 endorsement tracks, and 11 advanced non-licensure programs (St. 1 exhibit 1.4.b.16 Title II Report 2011-12) dispersed among the three colleges. Twenty-seven education programs reside in the College of Education and Human Services, 27 in the College of Arts and Sciences, and 7 reside in the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth College of Business and Professional Studies. A Graduate Internship in Secondary Teaching (GIST) allows post-baccalaureate students to achieve initial certification in conjunction with the completion of an M.S.Ed. in Teaching degree. Northwest also offers select graduate degree programs and courses at the Northwest Kansas City Center in Liberty (MO) and the Northwest St. Joseph Center in St. Joseph (MO), and the University participates in a statewide cooperative doctoral program with the University of Missouri.

The main residential campus – located in Maryville – is designated the Missouri State Arboretum and near campus lies the 500+ acre University Farm and 315-acre Mazingo Outdoor Education and Recreation Area (MOERA). The Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing was founded at Northwest in 2000, and serves as a rigorous, accelerated two-year residential program for academically talented high school juniors and seniors in science, mathematics or technology. Students who complete the program earn both a high school diploma and associate of science degree. Northwest serves the community and region economically through the state-of-the-art Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship – a mixed-use business incubator and an academic facility that fuels high-tech enterprise and job creation. The Training School, now called Horace Mann Laboratory School, began in 1905 and continues to provide opportunities for students to teach Pk-6 grade-school children and gain practical experience in teaching.

The vision statements of both the University and the Professional Education Unit (PEU) discuss comprehensive experiences for all students. According to our Vision, *Northwest will be THE*

university of choice for a comprehensive, exceptional student experience. The University values: Student Success; Scholarship and life-long learning; Intercultural experience; Collaboration; Respect and integrity; Strategic thinking; and Excellence. The institution's Professional Education Unit (PEU) prepares highly effective, ethical, professional educators who possess the knowledge, skills and professional dispositions in order to embrace the responsibility for the learning of all children in a diverse and dynamic society.