

- **New dean of LAS appointed:** **Dr. Kathleen “Kathy” Cassidy** has accepted our offer to join WOU as the new dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She will be starting August 16<sup>th</sup>. I wish to thank the search committee for the exemplary work done in prosecuting the search.

- **Faculty members recognized:**

**Becca Morgan** was identified as one of 21 computer science instructors across the country who has championed open source software in their classes and to have students become involved in working on open source software. This distinction was issued by Red Hat, Inc. Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source software solutions.

<https://www.redhat.com/en/about/press-releases/red-hat-honors-instructors-who-champion-open-source-education-us>

**Kim Jensen** appears in the PBS American Experience Series “The Great War” which currently is airing April 10-11-12. Documentary. Kim is interviewed about women suffrage protests at the time of WW I.

<http://www.wou.edu/woustories/2017/03/30/american-experience-series-feature-wou-history-professor/>

- **Transition in TRI leadership:** Director Ella Taylor has accepted a new opportunity with the Willamette Educational Service District to run their grants office. In light of this vacancy, some of the director’s finance and management duties are being handled by **Cindi Mafit** and sponsored research duties are being handled by **Kjerstin Stanavige**.
- **Fall schedule compression:** I appreciate the on-going work on reducing the volume of courses that are being built into the fall schedule. Fiscal constraints demand that we build a schedule that creates well-enrolled sections and serves critical student program completion needs. Also, to reduce operating costs and maximize the use of our classroom inventory, I have taken OMA classrooms off line while the facility is in transition – this will require a greater use of classrooms before 10:00 AM and after 3:00 PM and on Fridays, evenings, etc.
- **180 degree completion initiative:** At last faculty Senate I mentioned we would be moving toward a true 180 credit degree to better serve our students and address issues that are high value with legislators and HECC Commissioners. To accomplish this will require re-envisioning what we require of our students. A number of different groups have been working on various aspects...now ready to launch a task force to design the new gen ed curriculum. I will defer to Rob Winningham, Sue Monahan and Dan Clark have prepared a brochure (WOU Way) describing this initiative. I have asked Sue and Rob to give an overview on highlights of this initiative at today’s Faculty Senate meeting.