

Describe Your Emotions on the Closing of Westmar:

It was a great college

I was very sad and still feel that way today as I think about it. It was a beautiful college and prepared me for not only my career, but for life. It will live on forever in the hearts of alums.

I have no college homecoming to go to. No reunions. I feel like part of my life no longer exists.

Very disappointed that it has closed -- and wondering about the wisdom of some choices which were made at the administrative level in the closing years of its existence.

I remember standing up at a Student Senate meeting in 1969 and saying if we began to change our ideals, we would slowly lose all our uniqueness and become like a small state university. Then Westmar would die. Only one other and I voted against the plan to allow smoking on campus. I wish I had been wrong.

Westmar should have been converted to a 2-yr.vocational or technical college probably before I even attended there (76-80). It didn't deserve the fate it got. State should have stepped in and grabbed it. The campus was too nice and concentrated not to be used for educational needs of the state.

I feel that not enough was done for the institution to stay open. It sucks that if I ever took my kids back to see where I went to college, there will barely be a shell of the place. When told of the closing, I have been angry and will still hold a grudge against the city for that.

Due to inexperienced and self-seeking administrative leadership in the early 90s, the college failed to maintain a broad alumni base.

It was sad to hear of the decline, and then to know it was truly gone created a void which will never be filled.

My emotions--sad. Wish Methodist church would have come to its rescue. It never should have got involved with a Tokyo university.

I was hurt and angry! This never should have happened!

More sorrow than anger, but hated to see the beautiful campus fold. So many wonderful memories and a great education.

I just feel terrible filling out this questionnaire after viewing the pictures in where the building is being torn down

I felt there was some mismanagement of the institution. How could a college be so strong and well run only to lead to ruin? It was a disappointing decision.

Too bad--had a lot of fun there.

I think it is disheartening and unfortunate that a place that gave so much to everyone, including the community, was forced to close under so much speculation and criticism.

not happy and little disappointed but memories are for a lifetime

It was a great place to get an education during the early eighties.

I was very disappointed! I enjoyed my time at Westmar and looked forward to showing my kids where I went to school. Now all they can see is some empty buildings!

I was shocked to find out that Westmar closed. I was saddened that my alma mater no longer exists!

I was sad at the closing. I enjoyed my years there very much.

I attended for one year in 1989. The students and faculty were excellent, but I had problems with administration "attitude" while working with them during my transfer. I saw the writing on the wall.

I was very saddened to see upon my return to LeMars after 15 years the demise of my college.

The college was ruined while [a person] was president. If it wasn't for that, the college would never have declined.

I was shocked: It was like a distant friend died.

Very sad to see it happen. Was a 1980 graduate. Many wonderful memories.

I still can't believe that even after closing the doors only 1 semester into the year, they still charged us tuition for the whole year. NOT RIGHT!!!

Lost focus and lost relationship to denomination

We lost a good college with good values and history.

It was really sad to see all the bad decisions that were made through the late 80's and during the 90's.

I was sad...and I wasn't notified of the closing.

we knew it was inevitable, but saddened by the closing of our alma mater

more should have been done to save it

I was disappointed that the school had to close as a result of mismanagement and lack of governance.

Sad that things were allowed to get to the point that the college had to close.

Hated to see it go. Enjoyed my four years there.

Once the administration and board agreed to sell out to Teikyo, the death knell was tolling.

I felt so sad when Westmar closed. I have such fond memories of Westmar and all it stood for.

Upset that the college I graduated from no longer exists!

Sad that we don't have a college to go back to and see progression.

I was upset that the school made the bad choices it did in the last few years.

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It was a sad day when Methodists merged with EUB. Nothing against either denomination but this merger put Westmar in a no win situation.

Incredible sadness to this day. I live a block from the campus and walk it every day. It is a hollow, empty place even with the new uses. Unbelievable how the merged Methodist church let the college slowly die since 1966.

It was probably inevitable, starting with the merger of the EUB and Methodist churches. Westmar went from being the only EUB college west of the Mississippi to one of many United Methodist colleges in Iowa. Enrollment continued to decline and nothing that the administration did would stop it.

I was sad and angry to learn of Westmar's closing.

The inevitable end was shocking.

SAD - very sad.

I was very sad to think that the place where I became an adult was now no longer.

Like my roots were pulled out of the ground and a hole was left in my life.

[Westmar] was poorly run when I was a student--the closing was not surprising.

It was a real shame the way it all went down. Having been there [at the closing] there were many things that we found out about the bad management of the college.

What a waste of 107 years!

It was the best years of my life and it saddens me to think it's not there anymore. I had the opportunity to get back to Le Mars a couple of years ago and it was awful. The town was dead (literally) and the campus was horrible. I could have cried.

Very sad.....a great loss.

Frustration, yet resignation.

I was sad, knowing the ending of that part of my life, and knowing that the closing also meant some of the ties that had been made would be harder to keep together.

Sadness that this spot of heaven was gone.

Sad and embarrassed and pissed off.

I was extremely saddened to see the campus in such disarray as I drove my wife to where I attended college. Unknown to me was what had transpired over the past years that ended with the death of the college. My sister graduated from and I attended Westmar so it was a tremendous loss personally. I have no idea what it did to the community.

I started planning to go to Westmar College when I was in junior high school after I met a French foreign exchange student who visited. It takes so much away to know that the campus is

no longer there. I took my children back when they were young and have pictures of them on the campus and was hoping they too would be able to go to my college -- Westmar. That hope is obviously shattered. However, at least, the eagle and pieces of our history are still there.

It was like a part of me was gone. I was so saddened and shocked.

I was sad to see that happen when I had spent 4 years there. It almost seemed like it had never existed.

Very sad, like a piece of me was gone.

Angry. I had been a student from Japan. I loved my college.

What a wonderful school. Surely there was a logical way to save this school full of caring, intelligent teachers and students.

I graduated from Westmar in 1989. I was upset because we had heard from 1984 to the time it closed that everything was fine. I feel a deep connection with Westmar. And I am glad to be an alumni of the college.

There was sadness but it was time to say goodbye. The old friend had a life.

Very sad to now be an alumni of the Plymouth County Historical Society.