



News Release

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WESTERN BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES RESIDENCE HALL CONSTRUCTION BID

St. Joseph, Mo. – Oct. 24, 2003 – The Missouri Western State College Board of Regents awarded the residence hall construction contract to Lawhon Construction Company of St. Joseph, the lowest and best bid for the project. The board approved up to \$14,039,500 to be spent on the construction project for the residence hall and commons building. The Board of Regents also approved the issuance of 30-year revenue bonds to finance the project. Bonds will be repaid with revenues from the residence hall. The project is expected to be complete for the Fall 2005 semester.

The construction of the residence hall is first phase of the residential hall master plan, “Living Learning Communities.” This building will be a cornerstone for a new learning communities program. The program provides opportunities for first-year students to take classes and live together. It naturally enhances first-year students’ academic success, said Dr. David Arnold, vice-president for academic and student affairs.

The new, 400-student residence hall will offer four-person suites and single occupancy rooms. Each wing of the hall will serve as a community of 40-50 residents with accompanying group meeting and kitchen space. The rooms will have individual

control of heating and cooling as well as phone, cable and network connections. The heavy-frame, durable construction residence hall has a life of 50 to 100 years. A new commons building will also be constructed near the existing residential suites, featuring a residential life service and security desk, meeting space and a lounge area with a café.

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Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural, and social development of the region it serves.