



News Release

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FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL EMERGES ON WESTERN'S CAMPUS

St. Joseph, Mo.—Nov. 10, 2003— Studies on campuses across the nation have revealed that increased student involvement leads to better grades, more positive attitudes toward college and higher levels of self-esteem. With the recent emergence of the Freshman Leadership Council, a new student group at Missouri Western State College, students will have even more opportunities to become involved in campus activities.

Sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education (CME), the council is designed to enhance student involvement and offer opportunities to interact and build meaningful relationships. It is also a way to provide freshmen with opportunities to lead on campus.

“It [college] is more than just enrollment and going to class,” said senior LaShaundra Randolph, student mentor for the council. The Chicago native feels that taking part in the council is a great way for freshmen to learn how to lead their school by developing relationships with faculty, getting experience in event planning and understanding who to call and how to schedule planned events.

“It’s preparing them for their leadership roles on campus. It’s not easy being a leader; it’s hard work.”

Randolph is quick to point out that the six members of the council are the ones who guide the meetings. “They figure out the issues to discuss, not me. I try not to give too much input,” she said.

Member Andranya Taylor hopes the council activities will give freshmen a reason to stay on campus during the weekends. “The main goal is to help them get to know other people and to know themselves,” she said.

The council plans to sponsor two events during the fall semester. The Freshmen Advisement Bonanza (F.A.B.) will be held in the Nelle Blum Student Union lounge on

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Nov. 11, the day before freshmen can register for spring classes. It will offer peer guidance from upperclassmen and campus student leaders on issues such as how to choose a major, the best time to take a class, suggestions on better study habits and explanations of school policies. Besides building relationships, freshmen will be able to gain the perspectives of older students who have experienced issues they will be facing during their college career.

The second event will be a celebration in December for freshmen who have successfully completed their first semester of college. The council hopes to build a sense of accomplishment among first-year students and motivate them as they enter the spring 2004 semester.

Council members include: Ebonye Babbs of Sacramento, Calif.; David Crockett II of Kansas City, Mo; Daniel Kirk of Emporia, Kan.; Adrienne Pierce of Kansas City, Kan.; Nichelle Thomas and Taylor, both of St. Louis. Faculty sponsor is Karl Bell, director of multicultural education.

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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.