



News Release

Missouri Western State College • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • (816) 271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816) 271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@mwsc.edu

TWO WESTERN STUDENTS NAMED LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

St. Joseph, Mo.—Nov. 11, 2003—Missouri Western State College students Ryan Sevcik of Springfield, Mo., and Tolu Aregbe of St. Joseph, Mo., have been selected to serve in Jefferson City, Mo., as interns to two Missouri state legislators for the upcoming session beginning Jan. 7, 2004, and ending in May.

The interns received the Edward D. Gorman Public Service Award, which was established by former Western President Janet (Gorman Murphy) McCarthy in honor of her father, who was a Massachusetts legislator.

“This award makes it possible for outstanding Western students with a history of public service and a desire for more involvement to seek funding for this intensive, semester-long experience,” said Beth Wheeler, director of external relations and a member of the selection committee that chose Sevcik and Aregbe.

Sevcik, a history major, will serve as an intern in the Missouri State Senate for Republican Charlie Shields, whose committee memberships include appropriations; education; and commerce and environment. Sevcik’s duties will involve researching bills and taking notes at committee meetings.

“I was honored to be chosen,” Sevcik said. “I was ready to leave for Jefferson City the next day.” Sevcik said he hopes to gain experience and a greater understanding of how the government works. “I’m interested in law and politics, and eventually I want to do something like this with my life.”

-more-

page 2 of 2—Interns

Sevcik has a history of student leadership including Student Government Association (SGA) president, SGA director of external affairs, Griffon Edge orientation leader, Residence Council member, Barbara Sprong Leadership Challenge participant and third-year Western VIP. He has also received many awards for his outstanding academic achievement.

Aregbe, a junior majoring in government and public affairs, will be working with State Representative Ed Wildberger in the Missouri House of Representatives. Rep. Wildberger is a Democrat whose committee memberships include corrections and state institutions; and the joint committee on terrorism, bioterrorism and homeland security. Aregbe will be taking notes at hearings and committee meetings, and handling a variety of responsibilities.

Aregbe was also pleased to be selected and said she hopes the experience will increase her understanding of the political process and how laws are enacted. “I think the internship will be an inspiration for me, and I also think it will help in being better focused on my goals for the future.”

Her leadership roles on Western’s campus include two years as an SGA senator, one year as publicity chair of the Campus Activities Board, one year as a member of Residence Council, two years as orientation assistant to incoming freshmen, former administrative assistant of The Ebony Collegians and former education chair of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. She is currently the SGA director of internal affairs.

“All of the applicants were outstanding and deserving of the award,” Wheeler said. “Ryan and Tolu will represent Western well in the State Capitol and will undoubtedly be assets for Sen. Shields and Rep. Wildberger’s Capitol team.”

—end—

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.