



News Release

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WESTERN STUDENT ATHLETES GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

St. Joseph, Mo. —Dec. 10, 2004—What is black and gold, numbers over 200, and spreads goodwill throughout the community? The answer - Missouri Western State College student athletes. In November and December, the Griffons have been involved in a number of service activities, raising money for worthy causes and helping out in the community, thanks to the student-athlete advisory committee's emphasis on service.

“It's a way for us in a small way to repay the community that supports us,” said Dustin Holcumbrink, president of the student-athlete committee. “The majority of athletes aren't from St. Joseph, so it makes us feel a sense of community. We're fortunate to be here on a college scholarship playing a sport we love, so we want to help out the less fortunate.”

“We are very proud of our student athletes and their commitment to serve St. Joseph,” said Mark Linder, director of athletics. “It has been and will continue to be a focal point of our athletics department to build stronger relations with members of the community. We want to provide the community with an athletics program they are proud to support.”

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The athletes bought and delivered Thanksgiving dinners with all the trimmings for seven families, and they plan to do the same at Christmas time. They also sold “finals stress release goodie bags” to parents of athletes and raised between \$600-\$700 for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The committee will deliver the bags to the students during finals week.

For the third year in a row, the committee sponsored a free “Night Out on the Griffs,” where approximately 135 children in grades kindergarten through six were entertained in the M.O. Looney fieldhouse by student athletes on Friday evening, Dec. 3. Children played games and participated in a number of activities, and every athlete helped out.

Holcumbrink said the children love to interact with the athletes, and the college students are happy to give parents an opportunity for a night out without paying a baby-sitter.

”By serving the community, we are hopefully making a positive impact and making a small difference in the quality of life for St. Joseph residents,” said Linder.

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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.