



News Release

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WESTERN FOUNDATION ELECTS TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

St. Joseph, Mo. --- Oct. 15, 2004 --- The Missouri Western State College Foundation has elected two St. Joseph area businessmen to its board of directors. The two new members are J. Stephen Hamilton and Alfred L. Purcell. Both were elected for six-year terms as directors at large.

Hamilton moved to St. Joseph in January from California when he was named regional president for UMB Bank and president of UMB Bank in St. Joseph. In California he was associated with Prudential California Real Estate and worked for American Sterling Corporation as bank president. He previously served as president and CEO of First Bancorporation, Inc. in La Crosse, Wis. and Army National Bank at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. He served as a member of the board of directors at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

While in Wisconsin Hamilton was named the Community Banker of the Year in 1994 and received the Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in 1998. He has held board positions for twelve civic and community organizations.

“The Western Foundation will benefit from Mr. Hamilton’s experience on the board of directors of another college-related foundation. We look forward to his input,” commented Stan Hall, president of the Western Foundation board of directors.

Purcell is president of Purcell Consulting, a business he started after an illustrious career with Xerox Corporation. He joined Xerox in 1964 as a member of the company’s service organization and steadily moved through positions of greater responsibility. In 1984 he was selected by Xerox’s CEO to help lead the company’s quality effort, which was critical in the turnaround of Xerox and led to the achievement of the coveted Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

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As senior vice president, North America services operations overseeing 24,000 employees, Purcell was responsible for all technical service delivery, customer onsite support and services marketing. Special achievements during his leadership in this capacity included a reduction of expenses in the amount of \$750 million.

Purcell is active within the St. Joseph community as a member of a number of community boards. They include Heartland Health, Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, St. Joseph Country Club and national Volunteer Trustees of Not for Profit Hospitals.

“Mr. Purcell is well known and respected in our community. He will help us maintain a strong community perspective as we move the Western Foundation forward,” stated Hall.

Purcell and Hamilton replace Geraldine Lawhon and Robert Thedinger on the Western Foundation’s board. Both Lawhon and Thedinger had served on the board for two six-year terms, which is the maximum under the term limitation rules.

The Western Foundation board also elected its officers to new terms in the same office. The continuing officers are: Stan Hall, president; Emil Sechter, vice president; Dick Rochambeau, treasurer; and George Richmond, secretary.

“We are pleased that two persons with impressive records of vast leadership experience and community service are willing to help give direction to the Western Foundation. The Foundation is committed to furthering the quality in higher education and community partnership goals of Missouri Western State College and these gentlemen will make a positive contribution to the leadership provided by our board of directors,” explained Dan Nicoson, vice president for institutional advancement at the college and executive director of the Western Foundation.

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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.