



News Release

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WESTERN ECONOMICS PROFESSOR IS AWARDED GRANT

St. Joseph, Mo. —Dec. 21, 2004—Dr. Reza Hamzaee, professor of economics at Missouri Western State College, was awarded a \$3,500 faculty grant award for three Western students to provide specialized business forecasting and consulting to two or three local businesses next semester. The students will be chosen from those enrolled in Dr. Hamzaee’s senior-level Business and Economic Forecasting course, and they in turn will select the businesses. There will be no cost for the businesses chosen.

“The students have an opportunity for a meaningful and fruitful interaction with two to three businesses in the community,” said Dr. Hamzaee. “Hopefully they will enjoy their highly specialized service to the community while developing valuable and marketable skills for the future.”

Dr. Hamzaee said he has always had students in this course perform forecasting and consulting services, but they have not done it for a real business before. However, he applied for the grant because he has had several inquiries from local businesses about offering such a service.

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The project, he noted, aligns with Western's strategic plan since two of its goals involve increasing student participation in both applied learning outside the classroom and community service.

Dr. Hamzaee plans for the students to present their work at business conferences and in the community, although they will not reveal the identity of the businesses.

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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.