



News Release

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WESTERN FEATURED IN NEW YORK TIMES AD

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 1, 2004—Missouri Western State College has been featured several times in full-page ads in the New York Times because of their participation in the American Democracy Project. The ad has run four times in the past year and lists the names of the 191 colleges throughout the nation involved in the Project.

The American Democracy Project is a national initiative to increase the number of students who will be engaged in meaningful civic actions. As a participant in the project, Western is initiating new projects, teaching strategies and extracurricular programs to help students recognize their role as citizens and community leaders, according to Bob Klostermeyer, acting dean of student development.

Klostermeyer said the process begins at Griffon Edge, the orientation program for new students. The administration shares Western's values with the students, and students pledge to uphold those values throughout their college career. This year, a community service day was added to the orientation program and new students volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

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Also as part of the American Democracy Project, the college held two Big Event days of service, where students volunteered at nonprofit organizations throughout the community. A leadership retreat is also held in the fall to help develop students' leadership potential, said Klostermeyer.

Students were encouraged to register to vote at a "Rock the Vote" event on campus that was sponsored by MTV, and Klostermeyer said student organizations continue to offer opportunities to register to vote. He said student groups also plan to host "debate watches," where campus and community members will be invited to gather to watch the upcoming presidential debates, and participate in discussions following the broadcasts.

"We want students to be engaged members in a democratic society," said Klostermeyer. "We are educating students for life, not for just a career."

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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.