



News Release

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WESTERN HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CAMP

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 28, 2004— Last Saturday Missouri Western State College hosted the first-ever Prairie Lands Writing Project high school writing camp. Teenagers from six area high schools spent the day at Western writing and sharing their pieces for the camp.

Sara Capra, Prairie Lands Writing Project Teacher Consultant (TC) and Mid-Buchanan High School English teacher, organized and directed the camp. “The students who attended were fun people writers,” she said. “I hope they continue to make writing a priority.”

Capra launched the camp with a general writing session. Campers then participated in two of four writing workshops: “Music is Life,” conducted by Jeni Crowder, Prairie Lands TC and Mid-Buchanan High School English teacher; “Finding Your Direction Through Journaling and Literature,” conducted by Regina Hardin, Prairie Lands TC and Mid-Buchanan High School English teacher; “The Idea Doctor,” conducted by Erin Clevenger, Western pre-service teacher; “Autobiographical Poetry,” conducted by Ashley Wales, Western pre-service teacher.

The students who attended the camp included: Jes Baltezor, Benton High School; Holly Richardson, Benton High School; Will Abram, Cameron High School; Amber Duncan; Cameron High School; Alissa Emmett, Cameron High School; Katey Jordan, Cameron High School; Emily Kirkendoll, Cameron High School; Thomas Morgan, Cameron High School; Steven Steinman, Cameron High School; Joe Tvrdy, Cameron

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High School; Sydney Hendrix, Central High School; Rayleen Nichols, Central High School; Kolyn Pritchett, Central High School; Abby Saverino, Central High School; Jake Schildknecht, Central High School; KC Shuman, Central High School; Adam Knorr, Maryville High School; Brittany Bernard, Mid-Buchanan R-V High School; Amanda Furgeson, Mid-Buchanan R-V High School; Jessica Tingler, Mid-Buchanan R-V High School; Kristi Williams, Mid-Buchanan R-V High School; and Katie Shobe, Lafayette High School.

The camp concluded with an open mic reading session and picnic dinner. “It was exhilarating to listen to the participants reading their works with such passion and clarity, especially on a Saturday evening when teenagers are often engaged in non-literary pursuits,” said Dr. Jane Frick, Prairie Lands Writing Project site director.

The writing camp was sponsored by Prairie Lands Writing Project with additional support from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers which provided each camper with a T-shirt and a copy of “The Best Teen Writing of 2003.”

Prairie Lands, a National Writing Project site, is jointly supported by Western and the St. Joseph School District.

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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.