



News Release

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WESTERN NAMES NEW PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT

St. Joseph, Mo. —Dec. 16, 2005— The Board of Governors of Missouri Western State University last night approved the appointment of Dr. Joseph Bragin as the university's new provost and vice president for academic and student affairs. Dr. Bragin will be coming to Western from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. where he holds the rank of professor of chemistry and served for the past four years as the dean of the College of Science. He had previously served for 30 years on the faculty at Cal State Los Angeles where he was the associate dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences for 18 years.

Dr. Phil Mullins, professor of philosophy, chaired the search committee that received and screened applications from approximately 45 applicants for the position. "We had a talented pool of applicants, but Dr. Bragin is especially well qualified to take the role of chief academic officer at Western," he said. "He is a seasoned academic administrator and has extensive experience working on cooperative projects funded in part by federal and/or private sources."

The search committee forwarded the names of three finalists to Dr. James Scanlon, Western's president. All three were invited to visit the campus and participated in an extensive interview process.

Dr. Scanlon said he was pleased with the entire search process and its outcome. "Dr. Bragin has distinguished himself during his career as a faculty member, an associate dean and dean, and a program director at the National Science Foundation. He has been an effective leader in higher education, dedicated to excellence for students and the public interest that universities serve."

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Dr. Bragin and his wife, Vicki, plan to relocate to St. Joseph at the end of the current academic year. “I am excited by Western’s potential as an emerging institution and that it was recently recognized as a university. The quality of the students, faculty, staff and leadership at Western is impressive, and I look forward to moving the University to the next level of academic achievement in my role as the institution’s chief academic officer,” he said.

“My wife and I are looking forward to living in St. Joseph. The regional economy has substantial development potential and Western can contribute to that development as it plays an increasingly important role in all aspects of community life as the regional University.”

The position of vice president for academic and student affairs became vacant in July when Dr. J. David Arnold resigned the post to accept the position of president at Eureka College in Illinois. Dr. Jeanne Daffron, assistant vice president for academic and student affairs at Western, has been serving as the acting vice president since that time and will continue in that post until Dr. Bragin arrives. Western’s Board of Governors approved a change in the title and job description to include the position of provost, which clearly defines the position as the second ranking administrator at the university, reporting to the president.

While on leave from Cal State Los Angeles in 1999-2000, Dr. Bragin worked as a program director for the National Science Foundation in the Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology. In 2000-2001 he served as the program director for a second National Science Foundation program in Education and Special Projects. He has authored 42 papers and presented over 40 seminars on various science topics. He has been very successful in obtaining over 30 grants to support science programs and projects.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university 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.