



News Release

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WESTERN PROFESSOR HAS WORK HIGHLIGHTED IN NSF

St. Joseph, Mo. —October 31, 2005— The work of Dr. Todd Eckdahl, professor of biology at Missouri Western State University, and his colleagues from the Genome Consortium for Active Teaching (GCAT) was highlighted in the monthly National Science Foundation (NSF) newsletter to the U.S. Congress.

Dr. Eckdahl served as laboratory coordinator for two three-day NSF workshops held at Morehouse College in Atlanta in August. In the workshop 43 faculty members from historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal colleges and universities, as well as Hispanic-serving institutions, learned to conduct and analyze DNA microarray experiments. Microarray technology is one of the hottest techniques in biological research, according to the NSF newsletter. The technology simultaneously measures the expression levels of tens of thousands of genes.

The workshop was supported by a grant from the NFS, one of four grants totaling over \$280,000 for which Dr. Eckdahl has served as coauthor and co-principal investigator with GCAT colleagues.

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Page 2 of 2 – Eckdahl

Workshop instructors have also been invited to prepare an article for the prestigious publication *Science* magazine that will appear in January. The GCAT is composed of faculty from over 120 primarily undergraduate institutions.

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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.