



News Release

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WESTERN HOLDS PLEDGE CARD DRIVE

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 15, 2005—Missouri Western State University is holding a pledge card drive that is meant to hold students accountable for drinking and driving. Several hundred students have signed cards this week promising not to drink and drive.

A survey of several hundred students last year showed that 85 percent of Western students used designated drivers. The campus branch of the statewide coalition Partners in Prevention (PIP) and the public safety department say they want that number to go up.

“We want our students to be safe, we don’t want to see them hurt or hurt anyone else,” said Steve Potter, a campus coordinator for PIP. “We want them to be responsible, so that if they choose to drink they aren’t driving.”

Cpl. Bob Bidding has been involved with the law enforcement side of PIP for the last several years. “This is a great opportunity for us to provide an awareness and safety program for students,” said Cpl. Bidding.

The public safety department also assists with the “Cheers” and “Choices” programs. “Cheers” provides designated drivers with free non-alcoholic drinks when they are out with friends. “Choices” helps provide students who have had too much to drink a cab ride home.

Students will have the chance to sign pledge cards at the Nelle Blum Union until Sept. 16 and also at the football game Sept. 17. Pledge-makers are entered in a drawing for an emergency road kit.

Partnering agencies for the Drive Safe/Drive Smart program are the Missouri Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Missouri Division of Highway Safety, and the Missouri Division of Liquor Control.

For more information, contact Steve Potter in the Western Counseling Center.

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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.