



News Release

Missouri Western State University • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@missouriwestern.edu

FORMER MISSION TO MARS MANAGER TO SPEAK AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 28, 2005—Missouri Western State University’s Western Institute will host a presentation by Dr. Donna Shirley, former manager of NASA’s Mission to Mars Program. “Women in Science and Engineering,” a discussion of the importance of women in science and engineering and job opportunities available to women, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 13 in the Fulkerson Center. The event is free and open to the community, and a reception will follow.

Dr. Shirley was the manager of the Mars Exploration program and the original leader of the team that built the Sojourner Rover that successfully landed on Mars in 1997. She was also the manager of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at NASA. She retired from NASA in 1998, and has written an autobiography, “Managing Martians: The Extraordinary Story of a Woman’s Lifelong Quest to Get to Mars,” and currently serves as a trainer and consultant in managing creativity. She has over 35 years experience in the aerospace industry, including more than 25 years in management. For several years she taught a course entitled Managing Creativity. Since April, Dr. Shirley has been serving on a volunteer advisory board for the Western Institute as it develops its research centers.

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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.