



News Release

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MISSOURI WESTERN HAS \$139 MILLION IMPACT ON COMMUNITY

St. Joseph, Mo.—Jan. 8, 2003— Missouri Western State College’s economic impact on local communities is more than \$139 million, according to Western’s recently released Economic and Community Impact Study 2002.

The figure represents about a \$21 million increase in economic impact from the study released in 1998. Capital funding for renovations, grants and increased revenue to meet inflation are some of the factors that attributed to the growth in economic impact.

“The local communities served by Western have been instrumental in creating, financing and building the college campus,” explains Ron Olinger, vice president for financial planning and administration. “This tremendous support is being repaid not only by providing quality education for residents but by the flow of dollars back into the local economy. While this study only reflects one year of activity by the college, Western will continue to provide economic impact for years to come.”

The economic support provided by Western has an impact on employment in the local community. Based on an economic formula, the number of full-time jobs generated in the local community through expenditures of the college exceeds 3,200 jobs.

Western, the ninth largest employer in St. Joseph, has 550 full-time equivalent faculty and staff and more than 5,200 students. Employee, student, visitors and institutional direct expenditures are considered in measuring the direct economic impact.

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This report assesses the financial impact of Western on the economy of local communities. Those communities include Buchanan, Andrew, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb and Platte counties.

The study also reported the results of a community service survey of Western faculty and staff. The 135 employees who responded to the survey indicated they provide a total of 2,344 hours of community service each month. According to the Independent Sector website, the current estimated dollar value of volunteerism is \$16.05 per hour. Using that rate, Western employees provide \$451,628 of service each calendar year.

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.

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“Economic and Community Impact Study 2002” is available at -

<http://www.mwsc.edu/news.html>.

or by calling 816-271-5649