



# News Release

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## **SPONSORS HELP FUND NEW ZEALAND TRIP FOR WESTERN STUDENTS**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —March 5, 2003—Several students in Missouri Western State College’s Global Viewpoint class are traveling to New Zealand in May, thanks in part to the support of area businesses, and scholarships and funding from the MWSC Foundation.

“The money will help out tremendously,” said senior Rachel Riggert. “We are going to gain so much knowledge.”

The New Zealand trip will include tours of a yacht manufacturer, a pharmaceutical company, a vineyard, a kiwi farm, a dairy farm, two universities, and visiting with city council members. Students will meet with the company officials, attend seminars and learn about global business.

“The trip gives students a first-hand exposure to global business,” said Carol Roever, who teaches the course with Lee Schuster. “It is configured in a way so that students don’t have to stay abroad for an entire semester.”

Sponsors assisting students included Subway Restaurants, Smurfit-Stone Container Corp., Citizen’s Bank and Trust, the Jeannette Holland Scholarship Fund, the Herbert Owens Agriculture-Business Scholarship, the Lee Schuster Agri-Management Scholarship, and the Student Excellence Fund of the MWSC Foundation.

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Riggert said she enrolled in the course mainly for the New Zealand trip, but has enjoyed the coursework, also. “I am learning a tremendous amount in the class, including a lot of issues I have not discussed in other classes. I hope by the end of the trip to have a good idea of international business. We’ll also have ample time to experience the culture of New Zealand, and that will be an awesome experience.”

The Western contingent of 34 will join with a group of 12 from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. The course has been offered simultaneously with William Jewell students via video conferencing. Students from each of the colleges have formed “virtual teams” to research the New Zealand sites they will visit.

Roever noted that the video conferencing and working as “virtual teams” have been good learning experiences for the students, also.

“It’s really interesting. I have never been in that type of class before,” said Riggert. “It’s a challenge, but interesting and a good experience.” She has two students from Western and two from William Jewell on her team, and they will give their final presentation simultaneously on the separate campuses in a video conference.

The Global Viewpoint class has been offered every two years since 1986, and has included trips to Finland and Sweden, Germany and England.

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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