



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN PLANS SPRING MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH DAY

St. Joseph, Mo.—March 27, 2003—The Missouri Western State College Spring Multidisciplinary Research Day (MRD) will be held April 24 from 12 to 2 p.m. on the second floor of the Janet Gorman Murphy Academic Center. All student research poster projects will be displayed. The guest speaker will be Dr. Janet Pierce of the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Her presentation, “Diaphragm Fatigue and Oxygen Free Radicals,” will be in room 224 at 2 p.m.

“The Western MRD provides our students the opportunity to share with colleagues and faculty the results of their research and discovery activities,” said Dr. David Ashley of the biology department. “Many students who present their research at our MRD also present their research at meetings of state, regional or national professional societies.”

Dr. Pierce, ARNP, CCRN, DSN and associate professor at the University of Kansas has won various teaching awards and was presented the University of Kansas Chancellor’s Award for Outstanding Classroom Teacher in 1998. Dr. Pierce is a nursing school graduate from the University of Oklahoma and completed her master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and complete her

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postdoctoral training at the Medival College of Virginia. She also maintains a position as commander in the United States Naval Reserves.

In 1995, Western students and faculty attended the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) meeting and presented posters on their exploration and discovery activities while at Western. Following the national meeting, Dr Ashley, Dr. Todd Eckdahl of the biology department, Dr. Brian Cronk and Dr. Phil Wann both of the psychology department, helped to organize a similar multidisciplinary event for Western. The first MRD was held at the end of fall semester of 1996.

Approximately 450 students have presented posters since the program began. The majority of the students presenting over the last seven years have been from the departments of psychology, biology and nursing. Titles and abstracts of past MRD participants can be found at <http://www.psych.mwsc.edu/research/mrd/>.

“The Western MRD has always benefited from the support of the Western administration and the MWSC Foundation,” Dr. Ashley said. “We greatly appreciate their current and future support.”

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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