



News Release

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ST. JOSEPH CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS SUPPORT MISSOURI WESTERN'S NAME CHANGE

St. Joseph, Mo. —April 1, 2003— “It’s the right thing to do. It’s also the smart thing to do, in order to build a better economic future for St. Joseph, the region, and the state,” said Missouri Western State College’s President James Scanlon about legislation that would change the college’s name to Missouri Western State University.

Monday night the St. Joseph City Council adopted a resolution supporting legislation to make Western a university. The resolution cited Western’s quality faculty, programs and student outcomes as reasons to support the legislation. It also recognized that as a university Western would be better positioned to partner with others in expanding local industry, attracting new business and meeting the workforce development needs of the region.

Mayor David Jones, St. Joseph School District Superintendent Dan Colgan, and St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce President Patt Lilly also support the change to university designation.

“Western is already a strong partner in the development of our community and region,” said Mayor Jones. “University designation will only increase its ability to develop initiatives in the life sciences and other areas. This legislation is also an important tool as we work to keep our young people in the region.”

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Western currently partners with businesses and others in the region to develop healthcare, technology-based manufacturing and life science initiatives in the region. As a university, Western will better be able to attract government grants and other funding to assist in these initiatives.

“University designation is the right thing for Western and this area. Economic development is vital to the growth of this area and Missouri as a whole,” added Mr. Lilly. “As a university, Western can be a stronger asset in our efforts to attract new business and develop a workforce to meet those needs.”

Western currently has about \$140 million economic impact on the local communities of Buchanan, Andrew, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb and Platte counties. According to Dr. Scanlon, university status will increase this impact substantially over the next several decades.

“Missouri Western State College is an outstanding institution that deserves to be called a university. Such a name change would be of tremendous benefit to St. Joseph, as well as the region. I support Missouri Western's name change wholeheartedly,” said Dr. Colgan.

Western currently has a profile similar to universities in Missouri and across the nation. According to Dr. Scanlon, Western’s students and faculty engage in research projects that benefit the economic development of this region. In fact more than 1,500 students from a wide variety of fields are involved in specific internships, faculty-student research and other applied learning experiences that prepare students for careers or graduate study.

“The demands of the new economy require full access to higher education at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Many states understand this need. In the states with the fastest growing economies, the public four-year campuses are universities. As universities, they

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have greater impact on the economies of their communities, regions and states,” added Dr. Scanlon.

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 opportunities. Western is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.

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