



News Release

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MISSOURI WESTERN APPOINTS MARK LINDER AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 8, 2003— Missouri Western State College has appointed Mark Linder as director of athletics. Linder served as interim athletic director since January of this year. He will succeed former athletic director Pete Chapman, who died in January.

“We had an excellent pool of candidates. There is very strong support on the screening committee for the appointment of Mark Linder,” said Western President James Scanlon. “I look forward to working with Mark in continuing to build an athletic program focused on student athletes and service to the community.”

Linder came to Western in 1999 and has served as assistant director of athletics and NCAA compliance officer. While at Western, he coordinated an extensive 17-month NCAA compliance review. He also worked with athletic staff to increase student athletes’ graduation rates from 34 percent to 55 percent. Linder has played a central role in the bid to bring the Chiefs Summer Training Camp to St. Joseph. He also directed the 2003 Elite Eight Tournament, which resulted in about \$1 million in economic impact for the community.

“I am truly honored to have been selected to serve as Western’s Director of Athletics. Western is a special place with unlimited potential. Not only do I believe I have an obligation to the college, I believe I have a responsibility to serve the community of St. Joseph and surrounding areas in a positive manner,” Linder said of his new position.

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Linder's Division II collegiate athletic experience began at Wayne State College in Wayne, Neb. Linder served as adjunct professor of chemistry, football coach and athletic administrator during his tenure there. He also earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's in athletic administration from Wayne State.

"Based on the outstanding quality of his work at Western, Mark Linder had the complete spectrum of support from the campus, the community and from national NCAA Division II colleagues. As a person and a professional, he epitomizes the best of college athletics," said Dr. David Arnold, vice-president of academic and student affairs and chair of the athletic director screening committee.

To be selected as athletic director, Linder rose to the top as one of two finalists from a national search that resulted in 75 applications. The screening committee recommended Linder to Dr. Scanlon. Western's Board of Regents approved his appointment on Thursday.

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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