



# News Release

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## “EACH ONE TEACH ONE”

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —March 8, 2005— “Our goal is to start creating community leaders and responsible young adults.” That is according to Tanza Triggs, minority achievement coordinator and intervention specialist at Missouri Western State College, who has set up “Each One Teach One,” a mentoring program between Western students and middle school students at Bode Middle School in St. Joseph.

Triggs hopes that “Each One Teach One” will open up discussions between college students and middle school students about the importance of attending college and furthering one’s education. A main goal of the program, she said, is to provide an opportunity for African American middle school students to converse with African American college students, giving them someone with whom they can identify, and who will encourage their academic development and future life goals. The mentoring program includes short skits and monologues to help the younger students address social pressures.

“Each One Teach One” came about after Triggs was approached by Western alumnus Lavell Rucker from the St. Joseph School District about creating a program aimed at encouraging failing students.

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Although Western students will be the initial role models and mentors in the program, Triggs hopes their jobs will evolve as the “Each One Teach One” program takes root in the community. “The type of mentoring Western students will be doing depends largely on the type of mentor each child needs at the time,” she said. “Some of these students will benefit from simply having a positive influence in their lives, others will use this as an opportunity to express concerns about school, home or their futures,” said Triggs.

As for Western students, she hopes that they will come out of this experience with a better understanding and respect for the community. “The students who have volunteered thus far have expressed a real passion for mentoring, and many of them have personal success stories that were made possible because of a pronounced mentoring presence in their lives.”

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*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.*