



News Release

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WESTERN RESEARCH FOCUSES ON COMMUNITY

St. Joseph, Mo. —July 15, 2005—Several Missouri Western State College students and professors, along with area high school students, have been spending their summer conducting research related to St. Joseph as part of Western’s Summer Research Institute. A symposium to view the results of the eight weeks of research will be held from 2 – 3:30 p.m. July 22 in the first floor lobby of the Nelle Blum Student Union. The event is free and open to the community. Brad Lau, vice president for community development at the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, will be the guest speaker.

This year, the Institute’s fourth, all five research teams focused on projects related to the St. Joseph community, such as economic and business trends in St. Joseph, worker displacement and retraining, pollutants in local waterways, social service agencies, and identifying risk factors associated with the success of middle school children.

“We wanted to help high school students, as well as the Western students, learn about St. Joseph, and link the college and community,” said Dr. Ben Caldwell, associate professor of chemistry and director of the Institute. “The research also generated information and tools that can be used by the community.”

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Several academic departments participated in the research, including nursing, government, biology, economics, social work and business.

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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.