



# News Release

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## **WESTERN INSTITUTE HELPS TRIMBLE, MO. PLAN**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —July 19, 2005—The Western Institute at Missouri Western State College is working with the community of Trimble, Mo. to prepare a comprehensive plan regarding that town's expected population growth. The project is directed by Dr. Chris Shove, executive director and dean of the Institute, who has a Ph.D. in urban planning. The Institute is collaborating on the project with the Missouri University Extension Service; University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and the MoKan Regional Council.

Dr. Shove noted that Trimble, approximately 27 miles from Kansas City, Mo., approached the Institute last fall to request the study. Components of the comprehensive plan that will be studied include area demographics, the economy, transportation systems, environment, community facilities and land use. Staff from the Institute and Western students will use Western's Geographic Information Systems Lab to process some of the data.

"The plan looks at the current situation, projects future trends, clarifies citizen preferences and prepares a future plan," said Dr. Shove.

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Bev Maltzberger, Community Development Specialist with the Missouri University Extension Office, said she is facilitating two focus groups in Trimble July 27 and 28. She said the focus groups will allow the Trimble residents to take a proactive role in how things develop in their community.

“It’s good to help citizens look at what’s going to happen in their community. Based on its location, Trimble is going to grow. They need to look at how change is going to happen and how it can happen in an orderly way.”

Dr. Shove said the project is expected to be completed by the end of this year. At that time, the plan will include different urban designs based on how the town could look in the future. “What we’re doing is to try to have a thoughtful comprehensive plan for the future that preserves the preferred lifestyle of the citizens.”

The Institute director said he hopes that a study like Trimble’s is only the first of many such projects for the Institute. “The small towns in Missouri don’t have the funds or the staff to develop a comprehensive plan. That is the role of a university to help them. Trimble is tapping a highly qualified group to develop a comprehensive plan that they could not afford otherwise.”

Other directors on the project include Tom Bliss from MoKan and Wayne Drummond of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

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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.*

