



News Release

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WESTERN NAMES INTERIM DEAN

St. Joseph, Mo. —June 30, 2006—Dr. Cindy Heider, associate professor of teacher education at Missouri Western State University, has been named interim dean of the college of professional studies for the 2006-2007 academic year. The appointment is effective July 1.

As interim dean, Dr. Heider, who has been a member of the education faculty since 2000, will work closely with the office of academic and student affairs to provide personnel and budgetary oversight for the college of professional studies' seven departments and assist department chairs in program and faculty professional development.

"I am pleased that Dr. Cindy Heider has agreed to fill this critical position for Western for the next academic year," said Dr. Jeanne Daffron, acting vice president for academic and student affairs. "She will work with faculty and others in the academic and student affairs division to ensure quality curriculum and experiences for our students."

Dr. Heider plays a leadership role in professional accreditation nationally, having chaired Boards of Examiners for the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). She has made numerous presentations on subjects including performance-based teacher evaluation, long range planning, teacher professional development, and standards based curriculum development. She chairs state program reviews to accredit state teacher education programs for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. In the education department, she is a key member of the team preparing for NCATE review, and she presently coordinates clinical experience placement for education majors. She is an active participant in faculty governance, recently serving as a member of the graduate studies committee and as vice president of the Faculty Senate.

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Dr. Heider has been awarded grants from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, The Musgrave Foundation, the National Foundation for the Improvement of Education and the Springfield Public Schools Foundation, and has testified before the State Legislature on academic performance standards.

Before joining Western, Dr. Heider was professional development director for the Missouri branch of the National Education Association, she taught in the St. Joseph and Springfield, Mo. public schools, and served as executive director of the St. Joseph Development Corporation. She is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Staff Development Council, Kappa Delta Pi and Phi Delta Kappa.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university 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.