



News Release

Missouri Western State University • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: 816-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@missouriwestern.edu

WESTERN RECEIVES GRANT FOR INCUBATOR DESIGN

St. Joseph, Mo. —June 28, 2006—The Western Institute at Missouri Western State University was recently notified that it had received a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to conduct architecture and engineering analysis for a business and technology incubator planned for the Western campus.

Ellison-Auxier Architects Inc. has been chosen as the architects for the project. They will work with HOK Engineering Ltd. to develop three design concepts from which the final concept will be chosen.

Dr. Christopher Shove, executive director and dean of the Western Institute, said the architecture and engineering analysis should be completed by mid-September. At that time, the final design will be included in the application for a \$2 million grant from the EDA to construct the incubator on the west side of campus. If the project is funded, construction could begin as early as spring 2007.

The plan for the incubator is to accommodate up to 15 firms, and Dr. Shove said he has already had interest from at least a half dozen local high technology firms that want space in the incubator for software development.

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“The goal continues to be to create high technology firms to create high paying jobs in the area,” he said. “The incubator will more strongly support entrepreneurial economic development.”

Dr. Shove said the Western Institute has also begun to develop the incubator program so it will be in place if the construction project is funded. Dr. Shiva Nandan, associate professor of marketing and director of the Institute’s Business and Economic Development Center, will direct the program efforts. Western student Michael Taylor, a business major from St. Joseph, is also working on the project and will help develop business plans for firms interested in using the incubator.

In 2005, Western received a \$20,000 grant from the EDA to fund a feasibility study for the incubator. From that study, the current site was chosen and the decision to apply for the construction grant was made.

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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.