



News Release

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COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS TO COMPETE AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. —Nov. 3, 2006—“They get very stressed. At the end of five hours, they come out and look like they’ve run a marathon.” That is the description of student contestants in the International Collegiate Programming Contest, according to Evan Noynaert, assistant professor of computer science at Missouri Western State University. On Nov. 4, 29 students from Western, Park University, Northwest Missouri State University, and University of Central Missouri will compete in the computer programming contest with students at seven other sites in six states.

Student teams of three each are given nine programming problems and one computer, and they have five hours to solve as many problems as possible. They may use books, but they are not allowed to talk to anyone outside of their team.

Deborah Becker, instructor of computer science and coordinator of the contest at Western, said the problems are very difficult. Last year, the first-place team solved three out of the nine. The teams contain both mathematics and computer science majors.

“The students really like competing; it gives them self-confidence,” Becker said.

Western students completing this year include Bradley Anderson, Gower, Mo.; Kendall Bell, Eagleville, Mo.; Jared Arslanian, Brian Jacobs, Rylan Sampson, David Thomas, all of St. Joseph; Stephanie Thomsen, Savannah, Mo.; Theresa Hughes,

Smithville, Mo.; and Ben Kacirek, Weston, Mo.; with Michael Stancliff, St. Joseph; as the reserve. In the contest last spring, one of Western's teams placed second.

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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.