



News Release

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WESTERN NURSING DEPARTMENT HOSTS ETHICS SEMINAR

St. Joseph, Mo. —Nov. 8, 2006—“Our technology is advancing so rapidly, that it presents ethical dilemmas we never thought of 10 years ago,” said Dr. Stephanie Corder, assistant professor of nursing at Missouri Western State University. Dr. Corder is one of the coordinators for the nursing department’s eighth annual Health Care Seminar, and the theme this year is Ethics in Action. The event, co-sponsored by Heartland Health, will be held from 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Fulkerson Center on Western’s campus.

The daylong seminar will feature presentations from a local physician and a retired philosophy professor, case dramatizations, and breakout sessions to discuss ethical issues. “The main goal of the day is to help future and practicing nurses to be able to anticipate ethical dilemmas in the workplace,” said Dr. Corder. “This is an opportunity to give our students access to outside resources and to broaden their vision.”

Participants must register by Nov. 10 by calling at 816-271-4407 or corder@missouriwestern.edu. The event is free for Western nursing students and employees of Heartland Health. For all others, there will be a \$10 charge for lunch.

Presentations include “Ethical Decision-Making,” by Sister Rosemary Flanigan, PhD, of the Center for Practical Bioethics; and “Medical Futility,” by Dr. David Cathcart, DO, MPH, chair of Heartland Health’s ethics committee. Helen Emmott, a nurse ethicist,

and Julie Russell, a nurse dramatist, will perform case dramatizations regarding ethical issues. The day will end with a multidisciplinary panel discussion and a follow-up on the cases from the breakout session.

Sister Flanigan earned her graduate degrees in philosophy from St. Louis University and taught at Fontbonne College in St. Louis and Rockhurst Universities in Kansas City, Mo. In 1986, she became one of the earliest board members for the Center for Practical Bioethics and served one term as president. When she retired from teaching in 1992, she joined the Center staff. She served on the board of St. Joseph Health Center in Kansas City for 18 years, and is a member of the ethics and human values committee for Carondolet Health in Kansas City.

In addition to serving on Heartland Health's ethics committee, Dr. Cathcart is a member of the Heartland Health Board of Directors and serves as the Buchanan County medical examiner. He has been a physician in St. Joseph for 20 years. In addition to his medical degree, Dr. Cathcart holds a master's in public health.

Emmott has several years experience in the intensive care setting in both adult and pediatric areas. She studied philosophy and ethics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Russell is a faculty member in the University of Missouri-Kansas City department of sociology, and is the co-founder of the Kansas City Servant Leadership School. Calling herself a "nurse dramatist," Russell performs dramatic monologues and short plays on caregiving and bioethical issues. She has developed more than 50 characters and has performed in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

Dr. Corder noted that at many conferences, videos of Emmott and Russell's performances are often shown, so Western is fortunate that they will offer live dramatizations at the seminar.

Past seminar topics have included military nursing, diets, organ/tissue donation, pain, violence, substance abuse and cancer.

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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.