



# News Release

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## **NEW FACES IN RESIDENCE HALLS AT WESTERN**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Nov. 14, 2006—Missouri Western State University students who live on campus may be surprised to see familiar faces in the residence halls – their professors. This fall, Western inaugurated a faculty mentoring program, and students are seeing more of their teachers outside of the classroom.

According to Michael Speros, director of housing, the purpose of the program is to provide opportunities for faculty members and students to interact outside of the classroom, and to provide a role model for students. “This is an opportunity to enhance a student’s educational experience beyond the classroom,” he said. Twelve faculty members are currently participating in the program.

In October, Dr. Evelyn Brooks, professor of nursing, with resident assistant (RA) Johnesia Williams, enlisted nursing department faculty to help her host “Pancakes with Nursing Faculty,” at 10 p.m. in Vaselakos Hall.

Deborah Becker, instructor of computer science, who is paired with RA Jennifer Shaffer, said she signed on as a faculty mentor because she wanted to meet more students and get more involved on campus. Becker spent a recent Sunday afternoon watching a Chiefs game with students in Leaverton Hall and said she learned something. “I didn’t know anything at all about football, but the students explained it to me.”

She and Shaffer meet or email to plan activities. This month, they plan to take volunteers to the Second Harvest Food Bank. “I like having someone help plan the programs, and I like that more faculty members are involved,” said Shaffer. “Deborah brought a lot to the table for us. I would never have thought of taking students on a service project.”

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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.*