



# News Release

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## **WESTERN ANNOUNCES FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Oct. 20, 2006— Missouri Western State University announces recent achievements of its faculty and staff:

- Dr. Todd Eckdahl, department chair and professor of biology, and colleagues from the Genome Consortium for Active Teaching were awarded a \$307,654 grant from the National Science Foundation for workshops to be held for the next three summers.
- Dr. Brenda Blessing, professor of recreation management, recently received the 2006 Award of Distinction from the School of Physical Activities and Educational Services from The Ohio State University. This award is presented to alumni who have achieved national or international distinction in his/her field of endeavor.
- Dr. Chris Shove, dean and executive director of the Western Institute, was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to conduct the architecture and engineering of Western's incubator, the Western Venture Center.
- Dr. Steve Klassen, associate professor of mathematics, successfully completed the Financial Mathematics Actuarial Exam administered by the Casualty Actuarial Society.
- Dr. John Rushin, professor of biology, has been appointed editor-in-chief for the Missouri Academy of Sciences Transactions, a peer-reviewed scientific publication that publishes important work in all areas of science from local, regional, national, and international focus.

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