



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

NEW COURSE TAKES A LOOK AT ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 25, 2006—Considering two items that have been in the news a lot recently, the high cost of gasoline and the United States population reaching the 300 million mark, Dr. Ken Dagele's new course offering at Missouri Western State University couldn't be more timely. This spring, Dr. Dagele, associate professor of geography, will teach a three-credit course that focuses on sustainable development of the earth as the population increases and alternative energy sources.

Dr. Dagele said that when he asks students in his geography classes how communities obtain electricity or how gasoline is produced, "there's a tremendous disconnect about what students know about energy and how they use it. I'm trying to make them more aware of where energy comes from. If we strengthen their understanding of energy, hopefully it will lead to wiser decisions regarding those resources," he said.

For Dr. Dagele, growing up on a farm in South Dakota was all about conservation and wise use of the land and resources, and his interest in that never waned. In 1999, he spent three weeks in Germany on a Fulbright seminar that focused on Germany's use of alternative energy sources.

His course covers the impact of the population increase on the environment, and with that, the increasing demand for both essential and discretionary material goods. Students will discuss how the demand can be met without causing irreparable damage to the physical environment. The class will also discuss global climate changes, energy sources, alternative energies, renewable energy and energy conservation.

“Alternate energy is extremely important. We rely on fossil fuels to such an extent, and those supplies are limited,” he noted.

For more information on the course, contact Dr. Dagel at 816-271-4161.

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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.