



# News Release

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## **WESTERN RECEIVES AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Nov. 21, 2006—Missouri Western State University was recently recognized for its commitment to community service when it was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll “with Distinction for General Community Service.” The award was presented in concert with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Campus Compact, a national organization that is designed to increase public awareness of the contributions that college students are making within their local communities and across the country through volunteer service.

The 2006 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, the USA Freedom Corps, and the U.S. Departments of Education and Housing and Urban Development. More than 500 applications were received for the Honor Roll this year, its inaugural year.

Teaching a habit of service is a central focus of Western’s mission, according to Dr. Jeanne Daffron, assistant vice president for academic and student affairs. In fact, Western students, faculty and staff contributed about 81,000 hours of service last year, translating to more that \$1.4 million in service.

Western was recognized for several of its service projects, including its Big Event, Healthy Buddy program and the volunteer work of student athletes and Greek organizations. For the Big Event, students and employees spend the day twice a year volunteering at organizations throughout the community. In the Healthy Buddy program, Western students are paired with elementary school students, and they meet weekly to discuss healthy habits and lifestyles. The student athletes and Greek organizations sponsor several service projects each year as well as volunteering for other’s projects.

The honor roll responds to President Bush's call to service by building on and supporting the civic engagement mission of the nation's colleges and universities.

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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.*