



News Release

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NATIONAL HUNGER HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. —Nov. 13, 2006—This week is National Hunger Homeless Awareness Week, and the center for multicultural education at Missouri Western State University has planned a variety of activities to raise awareness on the campus and in the community.

“I hope students will take heed and realize how important this is,” said Ivory Duncan, student coordinator of the week’s activities. “We thought it would be a good idea to do something to make them aware of homelessness and hunger.” Duncan, a freshman from St. Joseph, noted that universities across the nation have activities planned for the week.

The week kicked off with a reception and non-perishable food drive in the Nelle Blum Union lobby, and students had the opportunity to pledge to skip a meal in honor of the hungry. The food drive will continue throughout the week, and the campus and community can drop goods off in the Nelle Blum Union, room 210.

The center is hosting a speaker from the local Salvation Army at 7 p.m. Nov. 15 in Nelle Blum Union 218, who will talk about hunger in the United States. A documentary, “Bum Hunting,” which is about crimes against the homeless, will be shown

and discussed at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16 in Leah Spratt Hall Kemper Recital Hall. Duncan will facilitate the discussion.

On Friday, Nov. 17, students will collect canned goods and non-perishables from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. in front of HyVee, 201 N. Belt Hwy.

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 than \$1.4 million in service.

Western recently received national recognition for its service mission. It was named to the national President's Higher Education Honor Roll, with distinction for General Community Service, from Campus Compact, a national organization designed to increase public awareness of volunteers' service by college students.

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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.