



News Release

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WESTERN HIRES DEAN OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

St. Joseph, Mo. —Jan. 18, 2007—Missouri Western State University is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Steven G. Estes as dean of its College of Professional Studies effective July 1, 2007. He is also appointed a tenured professor in the department of health, physical education and recreation.

Dr. Estes received his baccalaureate and master's degrees in physical education at San Diego State University where he coached rowing and competed in the sport internationally. He received his doctorate from Ohio State University then went on to faculty appointments at California State University, Fullerton; and the State University of New York at Cortland where he chaired the faculty senate, was a member of the collective bargaining team and established the Center for the Advancement of Technology in Education.

He was recruited to the faculty of exercise and sport science at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. where over a five-year period as department chair he led the department's development of several new degree programs a doctorate in bioenergetics, led a collaboration with the medical school and another with the business school, and added eight new faculty lines. He also conducted successful national accreditation reviews, assisted in the establishment of a new College of Health and Human Performance, edited several professional journals and served as president of the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education. During the past year he led his department's strategic planning effort.

Dr. Estes studies the role of sport and physical activity in American culture, and has authored or co-authored five recent books on sport and physical activity, has

published several dozen peer-reviewed journal articles on the subject, and has presented his research at numerous national professional organization meetings.

Dr. Estes is currently the coordinator of the sport management program in the department of exercise and sport science at East Carolina University. At Western, Dr. Estes will report to Dr. Joseph Bragin, provost and vice president of academic and student affairs, and be responsible for programmatic leadership, financial management, personnel administration, strategic planning and development of the College of Professional Studies.

Dr. Bragin said Dr. Estes's humanistic perspective and interests in the social and commercial aspects of sport and physical activity are well suited to developing new external partnerships as well as internal collaborations across traditional university and department lines. "Western is excited that Dr. Estes is joining us, and we look forward to his leadership in taking our professional programs to new levels of growth and achievement," said Dr. Bragin.

"My family and I are delighted to be moving to St. Joseph," said Dr. Estes. "Our visits to the Western campus and community were positive and welcoming, and show that Western's reputation as a friendly place is well deserved. I appreciate the warm welcome and I am looking forward to working with my new colleagues in Professional Studies, the university, and in the community."

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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.