



News Release

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WESTERN BREAKS GROUND ON SCIENCE AND MATH FACILITIES

St. Joseph, Mo. —April 28, 2008—Missouri Western State University broke ground April 25 on a \$37.5 million project to expand and update science and mathematics instruction and research facilities.

“These new facilities will help Western better prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow,” said Dr. James Scanlon, Western’s president, during the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of Remington Hall and the renovation of Evan R. Agenstein Hall. “For years to come, graduates of the programs housed in these buildings will serve the life sciences industry that is so important to the St. Joseph region.”

Remington Hall will be built east of Agenstein Hall, the current home of the university’s biology; chemistry; and computer science, mathematics and physics departments. The two buildings will be connected by a three-story glass atrium. The project includes new laboratories for research and instruction, larger classrooms and spaces dedicated to group work and study areas. Dr. Jerry Zweerink, who has been a chemistry professor at Missouri Western for 37 years and served as the faculty shepherd of the project, said the improvements are welcome.

“I love this old building. It has served us well,” Dr. Zweerink said of Agenstein Hall, which is one of the original buildings when Western’s campus opened in 1969. “But it needs to be updated. Faculty members are excited about the collaborative spaces, the research facilities and the more accessible office spaces that this project will create.”

“Students are ecstatic about the opportunity to use these new facilities,” said Sami Schmuecker of Holt, Mo., a freshman who is majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in mathematics. “The cutting-edge technologies will have a phenomenal impact on our ability to pursue science and math education.”

The new building is named for Wes and Patsy Remington of St. Joseph, who pledged a \$5 million gift to the project last October. Mr. Remington started as a sales trainee at Anchor Serum Co. in St. Joseph in 1956 and rose to the position of president. He went on to help found several animal health companies. Those firms and their successors employ an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 people in the region. Patsy Remington is a 1979 alumna of Western.

“This new building is a fitting tribute to a true pioneer in animal health,” said Finton Malloy, CEO of IVX Animal Health, Inc. “The Remingtons and Missouri Western have established a solid base to give younger generations the opportunity to be leaders in the global life sciences industry.”

Construction is expected to start in July, with completion of Remington Hall projected by fall 2009. Once the new building is completed, the renovation of Agenstein Hall will begin. In addition to construction costs, the estimated total cost of \$37.5 million includes the purchase of scientific equipment and the creation of a maintenance endowment. Western will receive \$30.1 million from the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative Fund created by Gov. Matt Blunt and the General Assembly last year. The rest of the project will be paid for by private funds.

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Missouri Western State University is a comprehensive regional university 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.