



News Release

Missouri Western State University • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kent Heier

Phone: 816-271-4124

Title: Assistant PR/Marketing Director

Email: kheier@missouriwestern.edu

WESTERN MAY HOST CHIEFS TRAINING CAMP STATE BOARD VOTE CLEARS WAY FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

St. Joseph, Mo. —Dec. 16, 2008—Missouri Western State University could host the summer training camp for the NFL’s Kansas City Chiefs beginning in 2010, after action today by the Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB).

“This is tremendous news,” said Dr. Robert Vartabedian, Western’s president. “Hosting the Chiefs training camp would provide a great boost to the local economy, give thousands of fans the chance to see their team practice in person and raise the visibility of Western and the St. Joseph region for three weeks every summer.”

The MDFB approved a request from the Jackson County Sports Authority for \$25 million in tax credits in exchange for making \$50 million worth of improvements to Arrowhead Stadium, the Chiefs Kansas City home. The Chiefs would donate \$10 million to Western for facility improvements, including the construction of a new indoor practice facility. If the facilities are in place, Western would have first option to sign a new five-year contract to host the training camp, followed by a series of five one-year options.

“We’re excited by the possibility of hosting the Chiefs,” said Dave Williams, Western’s director of athletics. “Now, we have to focus on moving forward to making

sure this happens. I'm confident we'll have everything in place to welcome the Chiefs in 2010."

The St. Joseph community has worked for years to bring the Chiefs training camp back to Missouri. Dr. Vartabedian credited State Sen. Charlie Shields and Dirck Clark, chair of Western's Board of Governors, for today's positive vote.

"We're so grateful to Charlie and Dirck for their hard work on Western's behalf," Dr. Vartabedian said. "We also need to thank Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder and the other members of the MDFB, along with the Chiefs and the Jackson County Sports Authority."

In addition to the Chiefs donation, Western will rely on an already approved bond issue and other private contributions to pay for the improvements.

"This vision is closer to a reality than it's ever been," Dr. Vartabedian said. "But we'll need the full community's support to finish the job. I have tremendous faith that such support will be forthcoming."

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. Visit www.missouriwestern.edu.

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