

Creative ideas in financial, estate and gift planning.

Golden Opportunities



Issue Number Seven Missouri Western State University Foundation

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Send for our free booklet, **Planning Your Will for All It's Worth.**

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Western Foundation Receives Bequests to Support Students

“One of the simplest, most effective and most flexible ways of making a substantial gift to Missouri Western State University is to leave a bequest in your will,” said Dan Nicoson, Western’s vice president for university advancement.

Nicoson, who also serves as executive director of the Missouri Western State University Foundation, said that the Foundation recently received two bequests from longtime supporters of Western. Marie Fulkerson passed away Jan. 6, 2009, at the age of 108, and the MWSU Foundation received a gift of \$600,000 from Marie’s estate to establish two \$300,000 endowed scholarships.

The scholarships, named the A. B. DeMuth Business Award and the A. B. DeMuth Business Award in honor of Lyman M. Fulkerson, will award up to 75% of tuition and room and board for on-campus students and up to 100% of tuition for off-campus students. The scholarships are available to graduates of high schools in Buchanan, Andrew and Holt Counties. The students must be full-time sophomores, juniors or



Longtime Western supporter Marie Fulkerson bequeathed funds to the MWSU Foundation to establish two endowed scholarships.

seniors with a declared major in business, demonstrate financial need and possess a cumulative-grade-point average of 2.5 or higher.

“Marie recognized the value of a partnership between the university and the community, and we truly appreciate her generosity,” said Nicoson. “Her gifts will benefit students and the community for many years to come.”

Herb '35 and Peggy Iffert also named the university in their wills. A charitable trust fund of almost

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Western Foundation Receives Bequests to Support Students ...

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\$4 million was established, with the Ifferts' church and the MWSU Foundation named as beneficiaries. The Foundation will receive 65% of the annual interest income from the fund. The funds will increase the Herb Iffert Business Scholarship Fund that Herb had established several years earlier. Their generosity will also provide funds to purchase equipment for the sciences.

"These types of gifts are very special," said Jerry Pickman '85, director of development. "Throughout their lifetimes, Herb and Peggy developed a love for Western and a philanthropic spirit, and to

know that they remembered the university in their wills means a lot to the university."

Peggy, who attended the Junior College for a brief period, was a 22-year member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and an active volunteer. Herb, who was vice president of finance for St. Joseph Light and Power, was also an active volunteer for Western and had served as a member of the MWSU Foundation Board of Directors.

These bequests are good examples of the flexibility available to donors who wish to support the education

objectives of Missouri Western and its students. Will bequests can be arranged in a variety of ways and can be drafted to reflect even the most specific wishes.

There are several advantages to a will bequest. Through a bequest, donors may be able to make a much larger donation than they could have afforded during life. And donors are not limited to gifts of cash—stocks, bonds or other assets can also be bequeathed. You should seek advice from your lawyer and financial advisor to ensure that your gift meets your goals and provides the maximum benefit to your beneficiaries and the university.

As a means of thanking those who have included the MWSU Foundation in their estate plan, the Foundation's board of directors established the Clock Tower Society. Those who notify the Foundation that it is a beneficiary of their estate plan through a will or other deferred gift arrangement, and who grant permission to be listed, are recognized as members of the Clock Tower Society. Donors who become members of this group can be certain that future generations of students and faculty will profit from their foresight and generosity.



Herb and Peggy Iffert, two of Missouri Western's most ardent supporters, named the university in their wills to support future generations of Western students.

Extend the Reach of Your Generosity Far into the Future

Few things bring more joy to philanthropic people than making meaningful contributions to their favorite charitable organizations. All of us can relate to the satis-

faction that comes from seeing our support make a difference for causes important to us.

Many of our friends have discovered the added pleasure

of knowing they can continue to support our mission beyond their lifetimes. **How?** They have arranged their affairs to make gifts to the MWSU Foundation at the end of their lives.

Five Benefits of the Popular, Versatile Charitable Gift by Will

You may choose to do what literally millions of people have done: make a charitable bequest in your will. Gifts we receive through wills help ensure that Missouri Western will stay strong and move forward in the future.

There are many benefits of making a charitable bequest:

1. You can be sure your assets ultimately go to support causes important to you. Without your specific direction, none of your assets will pass to Western or any other charity. Children or other heirs may decide to use some of what they receive to make charitable gifts in your honor and memory—but that is beyond the direct control you can exercise with a charitable bequest.

2. Leave a legacy. Even if your annual budget provides for gifts to the university, it may seem out of reach to make the size of gift you would like during your lifetime. Many of us need access to all of our assets or the income they generate. At the end of your life, though, all those assets will be available to distribute according to your wishes—as set out in your will.

A gift through your will can be the ideal way to realize your larger charitable objective. And you can designate how you want us to use your gift. You may want to fund a special capital or programmatic project. Or you may want to create an endowment that will continue to provide support to Missouri Western in perpetuity.

3. Do you mean I could continue my current level of annual support? Yes, and here's an example of how others have accomplished this.

Example: *Gene and Donna B are generous supporters of Western. Each year they make an unrestricted gift of \$50,000 to underwrite some of our general operations, freeing up budget dollars for other purposes.*

They decide to make a gift that will make it possible for this level of support to continue. Estimating that an endowment will generate approximately 5% in distributions each year, Gene and Donna provide for \$1,000,000 to come to the university to set up an endowment that will provide continued support at the level they had been giving.



A gift from Marie Fulkerson's estate funded a large portion of the construction costs of the university's banquet and conference center that was completed in 2005 and named the Fulkerson Center.

An endowment can be set up to support virtually any program or department at Missouri Western. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you

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Protect Your Potential Beneficiaries: Don't Let Estate Size Threaten Their Inheritance

There are many ways to structure a bequest to benefit Missouri Western. For instance, you can designate a specific asset or a specific dollar amount. Many of our friends find it is prudent to make a gift of a certain percentage of their estates.

Why? By making a gift of a percentage of your assets, you can guard against inadvertently diminishing provisions for other beneficiaries—and you can allow your gift to grow proportionally if your assets grow.

Example: *Mary G is thinking of making a gift of \$500,000 to the MWSU Foundation. Her estate is currently worth \$2,000,000, and she intends that her three children will divide the balance equally.*

Under Mary's current plan, if her assets shrink to \$1,000,000 at the time of her death her children will divide only \$500,000 (\$166,667 apiece) instead of the \$1,500,000 she had contemplated.

If instead Mary were to designate 25% of her estate to Missouri Western, we would receive the percentage she had in mind if the value of her assets remains essentially stable. But if the value were to change—either up or down—the value of our interest would always stay in the same proportion to that of her children. If she wishes, Mary may include a provision that limits the total that we can receive—for example, 25% to us but not to exceed \$_____.

Extend the Reach of Your Generosity Far into the Future ...*continued from inside*

about how you can create an endowment to address your own specific purposes.

4. You may realize federal and state inheritance-tax benefits. While federal estate tax can claim 45% of a decedent's taxable estate above a certain threshold amount—\$3.5 million for 2009—a charitable bequest can shield from this tax the amount passing to the Foundation and may reduce state inheritance tax as well.

Gifts through wills help ensure that Missouri Western will stay strong.

5. You can change your mind. Your will can and should be a dynamic document.

You would ideally review your will anytime there is a significant change in life circumstances. For instance, if the extent of your assets increases, you may decide you want to do more for certain beneficiaries. Or if one of your children becomes significantly more or less financially secure, you may decide to modify the division of assets among all the children. As long as you are competent you retain the power to

amend or eliminate any provision in your will.

The Simple Option: Name MWSU Foundation the Beneficiary of These Gifts

Two other very popular ways to make charitable estate gifts are to name us the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement-plan account, such as an IRA, 401(k) or a company pension plan.

How? Simply file a change of beneficiary form with your insurance company or retirement-plan administrator.

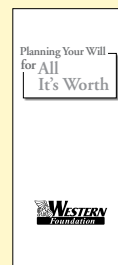
You can even indicate a particular purpose for your gift in your beneficiary designation. If you do, it is a good idea to notify us about the designation to ensure that we ultimately apply your gift according to your wishes. If you intend to create an endowed fund, for instance, we can work with you to create your guidelines for the fund.

Estate-tax benefits? Much like assets in a revocable living trust, the death benefits of an insurance policy and the assets remaining in a retirement account typically

avoid probate but are included in the owner's estate for estate-tax purposes. Consequently, your charitable gift of either an insurance policy or retirement-plan assets reduces the size of your taxable estate.

We Are Here to Help

You make an important difference every time you make a gift to support the mission of Missouri Western. We hope that you have found in this newsletter some ideas that may let you extend the reach of your generosity far into the future.



To assist you as you contemplate estate gifts to the university, we would like you to have a complimentary copy of our booklet, ***Planning Your Will for All It's Worth***. Please return the enclosed reply card to get your copy or to schedule a consultation with a member of our staff.

You should consult your attorney about the applicability to your own situation of the legal principles contained herein.

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