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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Cottey College wins Network Choice Award**

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Cottey College has won the Missouri Campus Compact Network Choice Award. This is an honorable mention award given in conjunction with the Be Bold Missouri Award, an award created recently to recognize and celebrate the achievements of member campuses in advancing higher education community engagement through innovation and creativity. Through the Network Choice award, MOCC is proud to highlight the Presidential Leadership Service Project at Cottey College. Winning this award brings with it \$500 for the college to use on community engagement programming as they see fit.

Cottey College’s community engagement endeavors are truly commendable and should be celebrated and recognized. The Presidential Leadership Service Project is the final step in the Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity (LEO) certification program. LEO is a four-level program open to all Cottey students in which students practice their leadership skills through the development and implementation of a community service project.

“We are pleased to receive the recognition for Cottey’s LEO program by the Missouri Campus Compact. This external recognition affirms the value of offering students an opportunity to practice their leadership skills through the creation and implementation of a community service project,” said Dr. Jann Weitzel, president of Cottey College.

Denise Hedges, director of the Center for Women's Leadership, stated, "The range of projects varies from year to year. In the past, projects have included workshops for area schools on topics such as leadership, anti-bullying, healthy body image, and diversity. Students have also partnered with community agencies for recycling, skill building athletic camps, and cross-sharing events with area senior care facilities."

"Awareness raising events on topics such as International Day of Peace, multiculturalism, sex-trafficking, suicide prevention, and violence against women have also been sponsored by students. Our goal is to create a culture of civic engagement and leaders who are change agents in their communities," added Hedges.

Missouri Campus Compact is proud to call Cottey a member of the MOCC network and hope that their partnerships in the Nevada community continue to deepen and students continue to thrive in community leadership development.

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For more information, contact Missouri Campus Compact at 417-836-3104 or email at [mocc@missouristate.edu](mailto:mocc@missouristate.edu).

Missouri Campus Compact (MOCC) is a membership association of college and university presidents and chancellors established to advance community engagement within higher education and strengthen partnerships between post-secondary institutions and the communities they serve. MOCC seeks to create and expand engagement through academic and co-curricular programs, to advocate for public policies that encourage and support community engagement, and to enhance the commitment to higher education's civic mission. Visit <http://missouricompact.missouristate.edu/> for more information on MOCC and the programs and services offered.

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