

The Missouri Academy – a ‘gem in the backyard’

I'm not quite sure if the Maryville community and the state of Missouri fully appreciate what a “gem in the backyard” we have in the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing. For those who are not familiar with this unique and innovative program, let me begin this way: The Missouri Academy is one of only six early-entrance-to-college residential schools in the United States. High-achieving and talented students who have completed 10th grade at their traditional high schools are selected to live and study at Northwest with their peers. Their curriculum is rigorous and consists of college coursework taught by professors at Northwest. Missouri Academy students sit in the same classrooms with traditional college students, and professors have the same high expectations for these students as they do for traditional college students.

By most measures, this program has been a success since its inception in August 2000. A few key successes include:

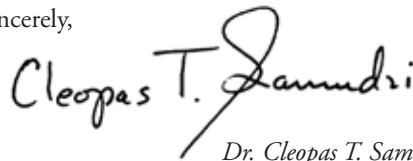
- More than 80 percent of Missouri Academy students maintain a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher, with about 40 percent of them consistently on the Northwest Honor Roll every trimester.
- Approximately 99 percent of Missouri Academy graduates go on to four-year baccalaureate degree programs throughout the country, where more than 75 percent pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics programs. They maintain an average GPA of 3.6 at their new schools.

What is most interesting is that more than 92 percent of the Missouri Academy graduates say that the quality of undergraduate instruction at Northwest is as good as or better than that at the schools to which they transfer. Since many of our graduates have indeed gone on to some of the well-known schools in the country, this consistent result from the past three graduating classes clearly speaks to the high quality undergraduate education at Northwest.

Missouri Academy students are not just “geeks” and “bookworms.” Many are not only talented in science, mathematics and computing, but also in music, arts, the humanities, athletics and community service. They have performed extremely well at local, statewide and multi-state appearances for Model United Nations, Boys State and Girls State, community service projects in Maryville and the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast, Northwest musical ensembles and theatre.

I invite you all to visit this gem in our backyard, this special school, this amazing place we call the Missouri Academy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cleopas T. Samudzi
Dean of the Missouri Academy
Director of the Honors Program



Dr. Cleo Samudzi, dean of the Missouri Academy and director of Northwest's Honors Program, has built a first-class program that consists of more than “geeks and bookworms.”

The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The offices of University Advancement and University Relations strive to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest's alumni, friends, faculty, students and administration and to positively position the University in the hearts of its many constituents to increase public and private support.

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