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UA3/9/5 ALIVE Center Speech Talking Points

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TALKING POINTS – ALIVE CENTER RIBBON CUTTING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

- WELCOME AND THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING TODAY AS WE OFFICIALLY OPEN THE ALIVE CENTER – A LOCAL INFORMATION AND VOLUNTEER EXCHANGE.  (CURTIS SULLIVAN, MAYOR SANDY JONES, AND JUDGE MIKE BUCHANON ARE ON THE PROGRAM AS WELL)

- ALIVE IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL SERVICE AGENCIES, SCHOOLS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH, THANKS TO SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL, HAS PROVIDED THE FUNDING TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE.

- THIS CENTER WILL SERVE AS A CENTRAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR HUMAN SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN OUR AREA.

- IT WILL BE A PLACE WHERE LOCAL AND REGIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES CAN GO TO MAKE REFERRALS FOR THOSE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS A PLACE WHERE THOSE IN NEED CAN GO TO FIND HELP.
• IT WILL ALSO SERVE AS A HUB TO COORDINATE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES. THE STAFF HERE WILL WORK TO CONNECT INDIVIDUALS WHO WANT TO SERVE WITH AGENCIES IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS.

• THE ALIVE CENTER WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR AGENCIES TO HOLD MEETINGS, TRAINING SESSIONS, RETREATS AND SPECIAL EVENTS – IT IS INTENDED TO MEET MANY NEEDS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THIS COMMUNITY, AND WE ARE PLEASED TO BE A PARTNER.

• ONE OF WESTERN’S FIVE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS IS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH INCREASED OUTREACH.

• OUR FACULTY IS RISING TO THAT CHALLENGE BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH THE EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY TO FIND WAYS TO INVOLVE THE UNIVERSITY’S PROGRAMS, STUDENTS AND FACULTY.
• THE ALIVE PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A GRANT PROVIDED BY SENATOR McCONNELL FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR A JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROJECT.

• DR. KATRINA PHELPS, AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN WESTERN'S DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, IS THE INDIVIDUAL ON OUR CAMPUS WHO DEVELOPED THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM AND WHO WORKED WITH LOCAL LEADERS TO IDENTIFY THE NEED FOR THIS CENTER.

• I WANT TO TAKE THIS TIME TO PUBLICLY THANK KATRINA – SHE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH LOCAL EDUCATORS AND HUMAN SERVICE PROVIDERS TO BRING NEW OPTIONS FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND TODAY WE MARK THE EXPANSION OF HER WORK TO INCLUDE ALL OF THOSE WHO GIVE AND RECEIVE VITAL HUMAN SERVICES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

• KATRINA, GOOD WORK, AND CONGRATULATIONS.
• I ALSO WANT TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT SENATOR McCONNELL, WHO WAS TO BE OUR GUEST OF HONOR TODAY BUT LATE LAST NIGHT WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A BLOOD CLOT ON A SURFACE VEIN AND IS IN A GREAT DEAL OF DISCOMFORT. I UNDERSTAND HE IS RESTING AT HOME AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

• SENATOR McCONNELL HAS BEEN A GREAT FRIEND TO WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AND HE HAS PROVIDED TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FOR OUR ACADEMIC AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

• HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE $1.5 MILLION THAT HAS FUNDED THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROJECT AND ALSO THE ALIVE CENTER, AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO HIM.

• I WANT TO ALSO MENTION A FEW OTHER PROJECTS FOR WHICH HE HAS PROVIDED FUNDING, AND ALL ARE PROGRAMS THAT ALLOW WESTERN FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO BE INVOLVED IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY, OUR REGION AND OUR STATE, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, WE ARE WORKING NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND MEET HUMAN NEEDS.
• THANKS TO SENATOR McCONNELL WE ARE PROVIDING HEALTH SCREENINGS AND DENTAL SERVICES TO HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED IN THE BARREN RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COUNTIES.

• OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS ARE TESTING DRINKING WATER AND WORKING CLOSELY WITH SMALL WATER SYSTEMS IN KENTUCKY AND IN OTHER SOUTHERN STATES TO ENSURE THAT DRINKING WATER IS SAFE.

• OUR AGRICULTURE CENTER IS WORKING WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CATTLE AND POULTRY FARMERS TO BETTER MANAGE WASTES PRODUCED FROM THESE OPERATIONS.

• OUR BROADCAST AND PRINT JOURNALISM PROGRAMS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO TRAIN JOURNALISTS FROM CAMBODIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ARE NOW PREPARING TO EXPAND THAT EFFORT INTO EGYPT AND THE MIDDLE EAST.
• SENATOR McCONNELL HAS PROVIDED FUNDING THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO STUDY THE STARS, AND WKU NOW OWNS TWO OBSERVATORIES – ONE HERE IN WARREN COUNTY AND ONE IN KIT PEAK, ARIZONA.

• THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, FUTURE SCIENTISTS ARE GETTING THEIR FIRST GLIMPSE AT THE UNIVERSE. WE HAVE EVEN HAD SOME MAKE NEW DISCOVERIES OF NEVER BEFORE PLOTTED STARS.

• IN ALL SENATOR McCONNELL HAS PROVIDED MORE THAN $20 MILLION IN DIRECT FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, AND WE ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT SENATOR McCONNELL SECURED FUNDING THIS YEAR FOR EQUIPMENT IN OUR NEW COMPLEX FOR ENGINEERING AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES.

• AS THIS BUILDING IS COMPLETED, HIS SUPPORT TO SEE THAT STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE TO OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS WILL ENSURE THAT OUR GRADUATES HAVE THE BEST TRAINING POSSIBLE TO GO INTO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AND BE PRODUCTIVE.
• SO ALTHOUGH SENATOR McCONNELL WAS UNABLE TO BE WITH US TODAY, WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY THANKS TO HIM AND TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS SUPPORT OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AND THE BOWLING GREEN COMMUNITY.

Boling in the Senators and in B.G. Leann.

• LEANN, I HOPE YOU WILL MAKE SURE THAT HE KNOWS HE WAS MISSED TODAY AND THAT WE HOPE HE IS FEELING BETTER SOON.

• AGAIN, KATRINA, MANY THANKS TO YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS TO GET THIS CENTER UP AND RUNNING. AND THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR BEING HERE TODAY.
WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell was examined at Jewish Hospital last night after experiencing pain in his left ankle. The treating physician, Dr. Alexis Karageorge, subsequently diagnosed the Senator with a case of Superficial Thrombophlebitis, a blood clot in a surface vein.

The Senator returned home last evening and is being treated with bed-rest and aspirin.

“This is a non-life-threatening condition that is probably unrelated to Senator McConnell’s recent surgery,” said Dr. Karageorge.

Senator McConnell will continue to rest and will receive a follow-up ultrasound later this week.

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WHY create a Local Information and Volunteer Exchange?

Over the past several years, many voices have resounded the call to create a centralized clearinghouse of information on human services in the Bowling Green/Warren County area. The results from surveys conducted by United Way of Southern Kentucky, the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Mayor’s Task Force on Volunteerism all strongly support the need for a community information, referral, and volunteer center. In addition, five community coalitions with members representing many sectors (e.g., education, county and city government, health and human services, businesses, civic organizations, churches, law enforcement, courts, and volunteers) advocate for the development of a local human service information center. These groups include the Vision 2000 Multi-Agency Council, Warren County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council, Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce Human Services Collaboration Group, Spotlight Youth, and Volunteers in Action.

WHAT does the ALIVE Center offer?

The Local Information and Volunteer Exchange (ALIVE Center) is a part of Western Kentucky University’s Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Project, promoted by Senator Mitch McConnell and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. The goals of the ALIVE Center include to:

- Create and maintain a database of human service organizations in Bowling Green/Warren County, with a listing of the services available and up-to-date contact information;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for human services with a community “hotline” to provide information and referrals to the public and service agency representatives;
- Create and maintain a web site to provide online access to local resources, and to highlight relevant human service information, such as changes in programs or personnel, and specific needs or requests for assistance, and announcements of community events; and
- Connect families with children to services designed to meet their individual needs;
- Match volunteers (youth and adults) with opportunities to serve programs and assist with projects in the community;
- Provide human service agencies/organizations, FREE OF CHARGE, the opportunity to reserve meeting space (80 chair capacity), borrow folding tables and chairs for meetings and events, and check out materials on a broad range of topics from the lending library.

Please use this facility and our resources to increase your own capacity in the community. Let us know if you identify other services we could provide to support the efficiency and effectiveness of human services in the region. You may contact Leah Tibbs at the ALIVE Center (782-0082; cell 535-1562) or Katrina Phelps at Western Kentucky University (745-4311). We look forward to working with you and connecting people with services. Warren County is now ALIVE with information and referral assistance!