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**\*\*PHOTO OPPORTUNITY\*\***

**CHAD HYMAS TO SHARE “CHOICES” MESSAGE WITH TOPEKA STUDENTS**

**Hymas to visit four schools Oct. 13**

TOPEKA, Kan., Oct. 11, 2010 — Westar Energy is sponsoring Chad Hymas of Chad Hymas Communications, Inc. ([www.chadhymas.com](http://www.chadhymas.com)) in taking an important message to students at four Topeka schools on Oct. 13.

Considered to be one of the most dynamic motivational safety speakers in the country, Hymas — whose life radically changed following an accident that left him a quadriplegic at age 27 — has spoken to Westar employees about safety on several occasions the past three years. Each time, he has received standing ovations and has helped strengthen the company’s safety culture. An international speaker and a world-class wheelchair athlete, he travels the world speaking to companies highlighting the importance of trust and communication, watching out for each other, giving others our greatest gift – time – and getting out of our comfort zone.

In his “Reaching the Impossible” message to youths, Hymas addresses the important issues of the day with students at 45-minute assemblies. Following his Oct. 13 speech to the Kansas Safety & Health Conference at the Capital Plaza Hotel from 8 – 9:30 a.m., sponsored by

Westar Energy, Hymas will visit the following schools to share his message with students about the impact of choices (including drugs, alcohol and tobacco), peer pressure, bullying, self belief, goal setting, motivation, the importance of leadership and other timely topics:

**Oct. 13 School Assemblies Schedule - Chad Hymas:**

10 – 10:50 a.m.	Seaman High School Students 4850 N.W. Rochester Rd.
12:10 – 12:50 p.m.	Topeka High School Students 800 S.W. 10 <sup>th</sup> St.
1:30 – 2:40 p.m.	Robinson Middle School students 1125 W. 14 <sup>th</sup> St.
2:55 – 3:25 p.m.	Lowman Hill Elementary School Students 1101 S.W. Garfield

“We’re excited about this opportunity to take Chad’s message to young people at these Topeka schools,” said Robin Seele, Westar Energy director, safety, training & loss control. “His program encourages students to live their dreams, be self-motivated and make choices that will have a positive impact on their lives. When Chad visited seven northeast Kansas schools on our tour in May of this year, he inspired thousands of students, and many told us afterward how moving his talk was for them.”

Media are invited to cover any of the school visits.

For more information on the Reaching the Impossible message, Chad’s latest electronic brochure is available at <http://chadhymas.com/pdf/ReachingTheImpossible.pdf>.

- 30 -

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 685,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates more than 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.