



News Release

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WESTERN AMBASSADORS TO HOLD MEMBERSHIP MEETING

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 2, 2003— Bridging the college and community is the goal of the Missouri Western State College Ambassadors. Since 1989, the Ambassadors have awarded over \$120,000 in scholarships to degree-seeking nontraditional students.

The group will launch their 28th year with a membership meeting Sept. 12 in the William F. Enright Room (214) in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building. A social begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the meeting at noon. The featured speaker will be Kim McManus, RN, manager for Wellness Connection at Heartland Health. Her topic is “Staying Physically Fit at ANY Age.”

“Connecting the college and community is a mission that all of us share at Missouri Western State College. The Ambassadors make this connection in many ways through their members,” said Dr. James Scanlon, Western’s president. “Especially important is the scholarship assistance that helps build a better future for individuals, the college and the community.”

Four general membership meetings are held each year, and at each meeting, a program is held that features issues and events involving Western and the community.

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Unlike previous years, no reminder letters will be sent to members prior to the membership meetings. Dues are \$18 per year and are payable each September, and community members are invited to join.

Since 1975, the Ambassadors have worked not only to increase the community's awareness of the educational, cultural and financial benefits that Western brings to the region, but also to aid its members in becoming aware of issues and events in the community of St. Joseph and surrounding areas, according to Ellen Smither, the college liaison to the Ambassadors and coordinator of nontraditional students. Each year, the group holds "Night at the Ritz," a fundraiser for nontraditional student scholarships. Ambassadors also host the graduation and honors receptions throughout the academic year.

"The Ambassadors of MWSC provide personal fulfillment for its members - a sincere feeling of helping others," past President Norma King said. "Membership requires only a minimum amount of time, but the rewards are heartwarming."

Current officers for the 2003-2004 year are President Jeannie Pitluck, Vice President Gene Teeter, Recording Secretary Suzanne Lehr, Corresponding Secretary Becky Garrison and Treasurer Jill Waller.

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Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.