



News Release

Missouri Western State College • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • (816) 271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@mwsc.edu

WESTERN ANNOUNCES WINTER COMMENCEMENT

St. Joseph, Mo. — Dec. 4, 2003 — Missouri Western State College will hold its winter commencement ceremony for fall 2003 graduates at 4 p.m. Dec. 20 in the M.O. Looney Health, Physical Education and Recreation fieldhouse. Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes, a St. Joseph native, will give the commencement address and receive an honorary doctorate from Western.

An ROTC commissioning ceremony will be held at noon in the Nelle Blum Student Union, room 223, and a pinning ceremony for nurses will be held at 1 p.m. in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts theater. A reception for graduates, families, faculty and staff will be held from 1:30–3 p.m. in the Nelle Blum Student Union, room 218.

Mayor Barnes was elected in March 1999 as Kansas City's first woman mayor. In her first term, Mayor Barnes focused on three major initiatives: improving city basic services, revitalizing the urban core, and improving housing opportunities throughout Kansas City. She was re-elected to a second term in March 2003.

Mayor Barnes first became interested in public service in the late 1960s, working as a volunteer and then as a paid staff member for the Cross-Lines Cooperative Council in the urban core. She helped found the Women's Resource Service at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and developed multicultural women's speaking panels throughout the western United States.

In 1974, she became one of two women on the Jackson County Legislature. In 1979, she was elected to a four-year term on the Kansas City City Council, serving the fourth district at-large. She also served as chair of the Tax Increment Financing Commission from 1996 to 1998.

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For 23 years, Mayor Barnes was president of Kay Waldo, Inc., a human resources development firm. She conducted more than 400 public seminars for more than 50,000 attendees through National Seminars, Inc., and served as consultant and keynote speaker for the American Business Women's Association for 14 regional conferences across the United States.

Mayor Barnes co-hosted and produced a cable television talk show, "Let's Talk," focusing on multicultural issues, and co-authored the book "About Time! A Woman's Guide to Time Management." She has taught college-level classes at University of Missouri – Kansas City, the University of Kansas, Lawrence; and Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant. She is a co-founder of the Central Exchange.

She has served as president of the Women's Employment Network board of directors and as a member or director of numerous other organizations, including the Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas City, Mo., Committee of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission and the Chancellor's Advisory Board to the Women's Center at UMKC. She was named one of seven Outstanding Women in Kansas City in 1977.

Mayor Barnes holds a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from the University of Kansas and master's degrees in secondary education and in public administration and organizational behavior from UMKC.

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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.