



News Release

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WESTERN ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

St. Joseph, Mo. —Sept. 15, 2003—Dr. John Tapia, professor of communication studies at Missouri Western State College, will receive the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Governor's Conference on Higher Education this December.

Criteria for the governor's award include effective teaching, effective advising, service to the college community, commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement. One faculty member from each public and private college or university in Missouri will receive the award.

Dr. Tapia received Western's Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002 and the Faculty Active Career Program Award in 2003. He is the associate editor of the "Quarterly Journal of Speech" and reviewer of "Southern Communication Journal." Dr. Tapia has had several books and articles published and has presented at professional conferences nationwide. He has produced videos including "Circuit Chautauqua: A Bridge Between Two Centuries" and "Si Rositzky: A Celebration of Life."

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Dr. Tapia earned an associate’s degree from Pierce Community College, a bachelor of arts degree from California State University, a master of arts degree from the University of Massachusetts and his doctorate from the University of Arizona. He has taught courses including rhetorical theory, rhetorical criticism, research methods, communication theory, organizational communications and oral communications.

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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.