



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 HOLDS GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW RESIDENCE HALL

St. Joseph, Mo. — Nov. 17, 2003 —Missouri Western State College held a groundbreaking ceremony today for their new residence hall to be built south of Vaselakos Residence Hall. The new hall is slated to open fall 2005. The Board of Regents approved the approximately \$14 million construction project at their October meeting.

The building is a cornerstone for the Learning Communities Project, which enhances first-year students' academic success, according to Dr. David Arnold, vice president for academic and student affairs.

“This residence hall, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, is an important part of our Learning Communities Project,” he said. “First-year students will have an opportunity to build relationships by taking classes and living together, strengthening the tie between academic and student life. It is a residence hall for the 21st century.”

The new, 400-student residence hall will offer four-person suites and single occupancy rooms. Each wing of the hall will serve as a community of 40-50 residents with accompanying group meeting and kitchen space. The rooms will have individual control of heating and cooling as well as phone, cable and network connections. The heavy-frame, durable construction residence hall has a life of 50 to 100 years.

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A new commons building will also be constructed near the existing residential suites, featuring a residential life service and security desk, meeting space and a lounge area with a café.

Those who turned over the soil at the groundbreaking were Dr. James Scanlon, Western’s president; Susan Colgan, Regents president; Sylvester Brandon, Student Government Association president; Luke Gorham, Residence Council president; Zane Brickey of Lawhon Construction Co.; and Dennis Strait of Gould Evans Goodman Associates, LC, architects; Dr. David Arnold, vice president of academic and student affairs; Bill Hurley, Regents vice president; Kevin Callaway, student Regent; Bob Klostermeyer, acting dean of student development; John Comerford, director of housing and residential life; and Ron Olinger, vice president for financial planning and administration.

The construction of the residence hall and commons building is the first phase of the residential hall master plan, “Living Learning Communities.”

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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.