



# News Release

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## WESTERN ANNOUNCES WINTER COMMENCEMENT

**St. Joseph, Mo.** — Dec. 1, 2004 — Missouri Western State College will hold its winter commencement ceremony for 320 graduates at 4 p.m. Dec. 18 in the M.O. Looney Health, Physical Education and Recreation fieldhouse. Quentin Wilson, commissioner of higher education for the Missouri Department of Higher Education, will be the featured speaker.

A pinning ceremony for nursing graduates will be held at noon in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Theater, and graduates, families, faculty and staff are invited to attend a commencement reception from 1:30-3 p.m. in the Nelle Blum Student Union, Forrest Hoff Room, 218. There will also be an ROTC commissioning ceremony at 2:30 p.m. in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, Enright Room, 216.

Wilson began serving as the commissioner of Missouri higher education in September 2002. As commissioner, his role is to guide the Department of Higher Education in fulfilling the Coordinating Board for Higher Education's mission, goals and administrative responsibilities for the state system of higher education.

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## **Page 2 of 2- Commencement**

Wilson has been involved in Missouri state government for 10 years. Prior to his appointment as commissioner, he served as the cabinet director for Governor Bob Holden. He was the director for the Missouri Department of Revenue when the agency was the first in state government to win the respected Missouri Quality Award, and he served as the deputy director for the Missouri Department of Economic Development from 1994 to 2000.

Wilson graduated from George Washington University in Washington, DC with a bachelor's degree in public affairs, and he received a master's degree in business administration from St. Louis University in 1980. In 1995, he completed the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University.

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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.*