



News Release

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WESTERN ENROLLMENT INCREASES

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 1, 2004— Missouri Western State College reported a Fall 2004 enrollment figure of 5,105 students, a 2.8 percent increase over the fall 2003 semester. This fall, first-time freshmen number 1,078, up from 1,044 last fall, which is a 3.2 percent increase. The number out-of-state and transfer students also increased, and the number of credit hours posted a 1.7 percent increase.

“We’ve returned to our normal pattern of increasing enrollment,” said Dr. David Arnold, vice president for academic and student affairs. “We’ve taken efforts to increase the incoming class and transfer students as well as increasing retention.”

Howard McCauley, director of admissions, agreed. “Western is doing a lot of great things, and the community, the region and high school counselors throughout the state are recognizing that. He noted that numbers of returning students were also up, which contributed to the overall enrollment increase.

“We had a great enrollment from Buchanan County (where Western is located), which set the tone for the rest of the state.”

New this fall is a commons building that is part of Western’s residence hall complex. The building features a coffee shop, lounge, kitchen area and 24-hour service desk. A 400-bed residence hall is currently under construction and will be completed by fall 2005.

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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.