



News Release

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WESTERN PROFESSOR NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

St. Joseph, Mo. — Nov. 30, 2004 — The Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA) recently named Jerry L. Anderson, associate professor of music at Missouri Western State College, Teacher of the Year. The award was presented during the annual conference of the Missouri Music Teachers Association which was hosted by Western's music department.

Anderson has been the director of keyboard studies at Western for more than 32 years and his students have consistently earned top ratings in the MMTA auditions. He currently has five former students pursuing doctoral degrees in piano. In addition to his teaching duties at Western, Anderson serves as director of music at First Presbyterian Church and is the founder of the Noontime Recital Series held at the church. Earlier this year he was awarded the Mayors Award for Outstanding Arts Educator in St. Joseph.

Letters of recommendation for Anderson cited "his knowledge of the piano repertoire and his deep and insightful understanding of the music." Another letter stated: "His personal warmth and generosity are legendary, and he truly is a shining example of what a teacher and mentor should be."

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The MMTA is an organization of over 500 independent and college and university music teachers from across the state. The Teacher of the Year award honors outstanding members of the organization for their contribution to the profession. Requirements for the award include the participation of the teacher's students in the MMTA auditions for at least three years, letters of recommendation, a statement from the nominee on their philosophy of teaching music, involvement in community and school activities and evidence of professional growth.

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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.