



# 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](mailto:hillk@mwsc.edu)

## WESTERN STUDENT AIMS FOR MUSIC CAREER

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Dec. 22, 2004—“Nothing gives you more energy than when you’re performing on stage. Sometimes I step off the stage and say, ‘this is why I do this.’”

Those are the words of Kelli Pyle, a sophomore at Missouri Western State College who is becoming well known as a rhythm and blues singer. Since she began working on her music career in earnest, Pyle, a native of St. Joseph, has performed on MTV and sang the national anthem when Vice President Dick Cheney visited St. Joseph. Recently, she sang at an after-concert party for rhythm and blues singer Usher in Florida.

“I love music. I can’t see myself doing anything but performing.” Pyle said music is like food for her – she has to make it a part of her life every day. She is a member of Western’s Concert Chorale, and also sings with the Steel Drum Band.

Pyle is also currently working on a second CD, which includes all original songs. The 20 year old says it is more “edgy” than her first CD, and has more of an “R & B feel.”

Since she began working on her CD, Pyle has been spending two days a week at the recording studio while maintaining a full course load at Western. She says sometimes it’s tough to balance the school work, the recording, practices and downtime. “But I wouldn’t trade my schedule for anything. I figure if I’m going to do this as a career I’m going to do it right. However,” she added, “A day of sleep every once in awhile would be great.”

Pyle’s first public performance was a talent show she entered at the age of 12, and she said she was so terrified she could hardly sing. “I didn’t win, but I didn’t give up.”

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**Page 2 of 2 – Kelli Pyle**

And where does she see herself in five years? “I hope I am a successful musician. Nothing would be a better job.”

But for now, she is focusing on her college classes and her CD, and making her place in the music industry. “My main goal is to enjoy the journey every step of the way.”

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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.*