



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

LAKOTA MUSICIAN AND DANCER VISITS WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. — Oct. 6, 2004 — Kevin Locke will perform traditional Lakota flute music and hoop dancing at Missouri Western State College at 1 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Theater.

Locke, whose Lakota name is *Tokeya Inajin*, meaning “The First to Arise,” is known throughout the world as a visionary hoop dancer, the preeminent player of the indigenous Northern Plains flute, a traditional storyteller, cultural ambassador, recording artist and educator.

Touring for two decades, Locke has performed and lectured in nearly 80 countries. He has served as a cultural ambassador for the United States Information Service since 1980. Because of his great concern about the conservation of environmental resources for future generations, Locke was a delegate to the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil and a featured performer and speaker at the 1996 United Nations Habitat II Conference in Turkey. “All of the people have the same impulses, spirit and goals,” he says. “Through my music and dance, I want to create a positive awareness of the oneness of humanity.”

In 1990, Locke was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship by the National

-more-

Page 2 of 2- Locke

Endowment of the Arts (NEA), which recognized him as a “Master Traditional Artist who has contributed to the shaping of our artistic traditions and to preserving the cultural diversity of the United States.”

The performance is made possible by grants from the Co-Curricular Events Committee, Center for Multicultural Education, Campus Activities Board and the Student Government Association.

—end—

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.