



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

AMERICAN HISTORIAN TO SPEAK AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. — Sept. 30, 2004 — Missouri Western State College will host historian Dr. Tom Spencer Oct. 7. He will present “Challenges for Missouri History and Politics: The Divided Mind of Missouri” at 7 p.m. in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, Kemper Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the community.

“The presentation is intended to stimulate discussion of the great diversity of Missouri history and culture and the problems that this creates both for the historian who might want to write a state history and for candidates in statewide elections who attempt to offer a single, unifying message to voters throughout the state,” said Dr. Mark Mikkelsen, associate professor of philosophy and humanities. “We hope this event will provide everyone with an opportunity to better understand the historical, cultural, and political dynamics of our state.” He said the presentation will include plenty of opportunities for audience participation.

Spencer earned his doctorate in 1996 from Indiana University in Bloomington and is currently an assistant professor of history, humanities and philosophy at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo. He is the author of “The St. Louis Veiled Prophet Celebration: Power on Parade, 1877-1995.”

The event is sponsored by the department of history, philosophy, and geography and is funded by Western’s Co-curricular Committee. For more information, contact Dr. Mikkelsen at (816) 271-4530.

—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.