



# News Release

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## WESTERN HOLDS BANNED BOOK READING

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Sept. 7, 2005— Missouri Western State University will hold the ninth annual reading of challenged and banned books from 7 – 8 p.m. Sept. 27 in the Nelle Blum Union, Forrest Hoff Room 218.

Western students, faculty and members of the community will read books that have either been banned or challenged in U.S. schools in recent years in recognition of the American Library Association’s Banned Book Week. Refreshments will be served following the readings.

Dr. Michael Cadden, associate professor of English, feels that the Banned Book Week offers a look at the phenomenon of censorship. “It’s important to keep people aware that book challenges continue to occur, that they occur in schools and libraries alike, and that they involve many books that people care deeply about.”

Books that have been challenged usually contain difficult information to grasp, or books that some might find offensive. Dr. Cadden noted that the event is “a reading, versus a debate or discussion.”

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Some of the books that have been read in the past are “The Catcher in the Rye,” by J.D. Salinger; “Brave New World,” by Aldous Huxley; “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” by Mark Twain; and “Harry Potter,” by J.K. Rowling.

The event is sponsored by the department of English, foreign languages, and journalism; the department of education; the Western library; Prairie Lands Writing Project, and the student chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English.

For more information contact Dr. Cadden at 816-271-4576, Dr. Michael Smith at 816-271-4514, or Julia Schneider at 816-271-4369.

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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.*