



News Release

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WESTERN HOSTS LUPUS AWARENESS PROGRAM

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 19, 2005— The Missouri Western State University chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will pay tribute to individuals who have championed the cause of lupus when they hold the second annual Lupus Awareness program at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Commons Building by the residential halls on campus. The event is free and open to the community.

Tierha Jones, a senior speech communication major from St. Louis, will be among the presenters. Jones will share her daily struggles of living with lupus and the impact that the disease has had on her life.

The program will also inform the audience of the support, research and public and professional education programs of the Lupus Foundation of America (LFA), the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary health organization dedicated to finding the causes and cure for lupus.

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Lupus is a chronic disease that causes inflammation in various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, heart, lungs, kidneys and brain. The disease is more prevalent among African Americans, Alaska natives, American Indians, Hispanics and Asians; and strikes mostly young women of childbearing age. While there is presently no cure for lupus, research stimulated by the LFA provides hope that safer and more effective therapies soon will be available, and ultimately a cure will be found.

For more information about lupus and the LFA, visit the organization's website at www.lupus.org or call toll-free 888-38-LUPUS. For information about the presentation, contact Tay Triggs at 816-271-4152.

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Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university 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.