



# News Release

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## **WESTERN HOSTS FIRST-EVER EVENING AND WEEKEND COLLEGE FAIR**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —May 9, 2003—Missouri Western State College will host the first-ever Evening and Weekend College Fair May 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, room 216. The fair is designed for people who want to earn a degree and cannot attend classes during the day. There will also be activities for children, refreshments and prizes.

“A person with a four-year degree earns nearly a million dollars more over his or her life than a person with a high school degree,” explained Dr. Ed Gorsky, dean of continuing education. “With the night and weekend college we are trying to make that degree more accessible to adults who have too many daytime demands.”

Beginning this fall, Western will offer a new program designed so a person may earn a degree while attending classes in the evening, on weekends, online or by television distance education. Students will be able to earn bachelor of science degrees in a variety of areas including business, criminal justice or computer information systems. Associate degrees in programs like business, legal assistant, criminal justice, paramedic and health information technology will be offered. Certificate programs in areas such as health information technology, professional skills and horticulture also will be available.

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“The goal of the fair is to better inform nontraditional students of the choices available,” added Dr. Gorsky. “Many of the programs are not new, but they are now better organized so students can complete their degree in a faster timeframe at night and on weekends.”

The Evening and Weekend College Fair will provide information on the various academic programs available. The fair will also offer details about financial aid for part-time students, admission, advice on degree completion, student services for nontraditional students, child care, enrollment, alternative scheduling options and much more. For additional information, contact Western’s division of continuing services at (816) 271-4100, or visit online at [www.mwsc.edu/conteduc](http://www.mwsc.edu/conteduc).

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.

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