



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

WESTERN HOLDS ANNUAL FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS PRESENTATION

St. Joseph, Mo. —May 12, 2003— Missouri Western State College honored employees at their annual faculty and staff awards ceremony recently. Eight employees received special awards, and over 140 faculty and staff were recognized for their years of service at Western.

Dr. Kevin Anderson received the Dr. James V. Mehl Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award. The award is given annually to a faculty member who has shown unusually significant and meritorious achievement in professional scholarship. Dr. Anderson, assistant professor of mathematics, is in his second year at Western. He has published an article in the European Journal of Combinatorics, published a paper at an international meeting, published a regional paper and two department colloquia.

Three faculty members were recipients of the Missouri Western State College Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching Award: Dr. Alicia de Gregorio, associate professor of Spanish; Dr. Don Vestal, assistant professor of mathematics; and Dr. Brent Walker, assistant professor of physical education.

The Myers award is given annually to faculty members who encompass extraordinary teaching ability and make outstanding contributions to either scholarly and professional activities or institutional and community service.

Dr. de Gregorio has annually presented papers, and publishes on the average of one paper every other year. Her most recent paper was presented in Madrid in 2002.

Dr. Vestal has published two papers in the past two years. He also coaches students in mathematical contests.

Dr. Walker is noted for his hands-on experiences in sports psychology and perceptual motor experiences. He has made national and international paper presentations and has been a consultant for professional baseball players and the United States Soccer Federation.

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Four staff members received the Foundation's Presidential Citations. The citations are given to employees who have made outstanding contributions to the college through the performance of their duties. They have shown a commitment to a student-centered focus in providing services, and they have participated in college and community activities. This year's recipients are Kurt Claassen, accountant for the continuing education and special programs office; Dorothy Dilley, custodian; Rhonda Puffer, accounts receivable collections coordinator; and Pat Stillman, administrative assistant for athletics.

Claassen is currently the Professional Staff Association vice president/president elect, and has served on many support staff and professional staff committees at Western.

In Dilley's nomination letter, it was noted that she takes special care of her building and is very dedicated to her job and to the students, of whom she is very fond.

Puffer has created processes in the business office to improve communications with the students relating to their billing and check processing. She works as a freshman advisor and an adjunct faculty member in the department of business.

Along with her office duties, Stillman serves as manager of the athletic ticket office, manager of game management personnel, and secretary of the Gold Coat Club. She has also been involved with a number of Western committees, and community organizations and charities.

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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