



News Release

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo.—Jan. 10, 2003—Missouri Western State College will be hosting two events in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. candlelight vigil will be held Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. in the housing and residential life courtyard. An audio of the speech, "I Have A Dream" will be played, several students will discuss the impact that Dr. King's dream has had on their life, and Stevie Wonder's rendition of the song "Happy Birthday" will be played. This event is free and open to the community, and is sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma and the office of Unity Services.

On Jan. 20, a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held at 7 p.m. in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, room 101. The program will include music by Western students and a performance by Students Learning Unity and Responsibility (SLUR), a peer theatre group from the office of Unity Services.

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Reverend Jeff Edwards, senior pastor of Freedom Christian Center Church in Kansas City, will be presenting the keynote address. His talk will focus on bridging the gap between races and removing walls that divide and hinder. Rev. Edwards earned his bachelor and master's degrees in theology from International Seminary. He is currently in the last stages of earning his Ph.D. in biblical and ethnical studies and has completed his dissertation on biblical Black history.

This event is free and open to the community, and is sponsored by the Black History Month committee, which is comprised of student volunteers and the staff of the office of Unity Services.

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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