



# News Release

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## 2004 CHEMATHON HELD AT WESTERN

**St. Joseph, Mo.**—April 20, 2004—Golf ball cannons, awards and a scavenger hunt are some of the activities planned for this year's Chemathon at Missouri Western State College May 4, where high school students from the region will take written exams and participate in team competitions and activities. Last year's event drew approximately 600 students from 30 high schools in over a 100-mile radius.

“We want to promote science at Missouri Western and chemistry in particular,” said Dr. Shauna Hiley, associate professor of chemistry and one of the Chemathon coordinators. “Since we have new activities this year, I expect that high school students will get to see parts of the campus that they're usually not exposed to, and will find out that chemistry is more fun than they thought.”

The team competitions begin at 10 a.m. in the Nelle Blum Student Union, Hoff Room, 218; and in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building, Enright Room, 214. The winners of the competitions will be announced at an awards ceremony at 2 p.m. in the Western Fieldhouse.

The competitions involve using a shop vacuum to power a golf ball cannon where students will be judged on accuracy completion, distance of the golf ball and best in show. The scavenger hunt will require teams to decipher a set of clues based on general chemistry trivia that will direct them to locations on campus.

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“We always get really positive comments on the competition,” said Dr. Mike Ducey, assistant professor of chemistry and Chemathon coordinator. “The students like it and the teachers like it.”

The Chemathon began in 1977 after a suggestion by an area high school teacher to provide a fun environment for high school students to learn and interact with college students. This is the third year the Chemathon has been led by Dr. Ducey and Dr. Hiley.

“We hope that they have an enjoyable experience in science,” Dr. Ducey said. “We also want to give them opportunities to win some prizes and demonstrate scientific knowledge.” Prizes this year include a TI86 calculator, Galileo thermometer, t-shirts and backpacks.

The Chemathon is sponsored by the Western department of chemistry and the Chemistry Education Association. For more information, please contact Dr. Ducey at (816) 271-4391 or [ducey@mwsc.edu](mailto:ducey@mwsc.edu) .

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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.*