



# News Release

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## WHITE HOUSE CHIEF INTERPRETER VISITS WESTERN

**St. Joseph, Mo.** — April 5, 2004— Stephanie Van Reigersberg, chief interpreter of the White House and State Department, will present “Language and Culture on the Front Lines of Diplomacy: Interpreting with a Capital ‘I,’” at 7 p.m. April 22 in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building Kemper Recital Hall at Missouri Western State College. The event is free and open to the community.

In her presentation, Van Reigersberg will provide a firsthand account of the importance of language, including nonverbal cues, in different cultural settings throughout several presidencies. Stories and pictures of her diplomatic experiences will be included in her presentation.

She will informally meet with students at a brown bag lunch the following day.

Van Reigersberg is the main White House diplomatic interpreter in French and Spanish. She has worked for the White House and State Department for over three decades and has been responsible for organizing summit and ministerial meetings such as the Asia-Pacific Cooperation Council in Seattle, the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, Spain, and the labor summit in Detroit. In addition, she manages a contract base of approximately 1,500 interpreters and a core staff of 22 interpreters, representing the primary world languages. She has received the Superior Honor Award for her work related to the Iran Hostage Crisis, the Mariel boat lift and the Panama Canal negotiations.

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A native of St. Joseph, Van Reigersberg is the daughter of the late Simon and Monya Rositzky. She attended Central High School and graduated from Swarthmore College, Penn.

The lecture is presented through the Chautauqua Lecture Series. For more information, contact Dr. John Tapia, professor of speech, at (816) 271-4503 or [tapia@mwsc.edu](mailto:tapia@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.*