



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

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR CHERYL HARNESS TO SPEAK AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. — March 4, 2004—The St. Joseph Area Literacy Coalition will host Cheryl Harness, author and illustrator of children's books, at two speaking engagements March 22. The first will be at noon in Missouri Western State College's Warren E. Hearnese Learning Resource Center, room 102. She will also be at the Pony Express Museum, 914 Penn St., at 7 p.m. that evening. Both events are free and open to the community.

Harness will offer a lecture and slide presentation about her books and the writing process she uses. She will discuss her 1996 book, "They're Off! The Story of the Pony Express," and several of her works will be available for purchase.

Harness has written and illustrated more than 20 historically based books. She received a bachelor's degree in art education in 1973 from Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg and held several jobs including art supply seller, theme park portrait designer, Hallmark greeting card artist and needlework designer until becoming an author/illustrator in 1985. Harness' books are sold nationally by Barnes and Noble, Borders and Amazon.com.

Both events are sponsored by Western's Prairie Lands Writing Project, the Western Foundation and the education department. For more information about Harness, visit her Web site at www.cherylharness.com.

—end—

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.