



# News Release

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## WESTERN ANNOUNCES SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —April 23, 2004—Spring Commencement ceremonies for Missouri Western State College will be held at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 15 in the M.O. Looney Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building. The pinning ceremony for nurses will be at 9 a.m. at the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Theatre, and an ROTC commissioning ceremony is at 1 p.m. in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building Enright Room. There are approximately 360 graduates this semester.

Dr. Jamel Santa Cruze Bell will be the featured speaker at both commencement ceremonies. The 2000 graduate of Western is a lecturer in the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Kansas, Lawrence; and a student affairs communication specialist at Western.

Ceremony divisions are as follows:

- 11 a.m.: art; communication studies; criminal justice/legal studies; education; English, foreign languages and journalism; government, social work and sociology; health, physical education and recreation; history, philosophy and geography; music; nursing; bachelor of interdisciplinary studies; and bachelor of science in technology 2 + 2.
- 3 p.m.: biology; business; chemistry; computer science, mathematics and physics; economics; engineering technology; and psychology.

Doors open at 9:45 a.m. for the 11 a.m. ceremony and at 1:45 p.m. for the 3 p.m. ceremony.

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Two celebration events will be held for graduates and their families. A reception will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. May 14 in the Nelle Blum Student Union, Hoff Room, 218. There will be a short program at 7:30 p.m. A commencement breakfast will be at 8:30 a.m. in the Nelle Blum Student Union, Hoff Room, 218. Cost is free to graduates and \$7 for guests. Reservations for the breakfast must be made by May 7 by calling (816) 271-5646. Payment will be accepted at the door.

Dr. Santa Cruze Bell earned her master's and doctorate degrees in communication studies from the University of Kansas in 2002 and 2004, respectively. She has published three articles in journals and has made academic presentations throughout the country and in Seoul, Korea. She was co-director of a Ford Foundation Grant for \$300,000 to study how the interaction between African American and Native Americans have influenced their attitudes toward race/ethnicity and identity development. Dr. Santa Cruze Bell has accepted a position as an assistant professor in communication studies at Boston College that will begin in the spring 2005 semester.

For more information, contact the academic and student affairs office at (816) 271-4234.

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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.*