



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

WESTERN STUDENTS HOLD DAY OF SILENCE

St. Joseph, Mo. — April 12, 2004— As part of a national event, the Missouri Western State College student group Pride Alliance, along with the Center for Multicultural Education, will hold a day of silence with a “Time of Reflection” candle walk at 8 p.m. April 21. The event is to protest the discrimination, harassment and abuse of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students.

The day of silence is from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., and participants will wear ribbons and pass out dialogue cards that explain why they have chosen to be silent on this day. The candle walk will begin outside the west doors of the Nelle Blum Student Union. A short program will follow at the Glenn E. Marion Clock Tower.

The day of silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), is a nationwide, student-led event that involves hundreds of high schools and colleges. On GLSEN’s 2001 National School Climate survey, four out of five gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students reported verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school. Thirty percent also reported having missed a day of school out of fear for their personal safety.

For more information, contact Daniel Kirk, Western Pride Alliance president, at (816) 383-1716 or dkirk9656@msn.com.

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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.