



News Release

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FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM AND RETENTION SPECIALIST TO VISIT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. —March 19, 2004—John Gardner, executive director of the Policy Center of the First Year of College, will visit Missouri Western State College March 25. Since last fall, Western has been a founding member of the Foundations of Excellence Project, and has been working with the Policy Center to develop a model for designing and executing an effective set of programs for students in their first year of college.

During his visit, Gardner will meet with the college's Foundations of Excellence task force, along with students, faculty and staff. He will address the Board of Regents at their regular meeting that evening.

Western was one of 12 institutions selected for Foundations of Excellence from almost 70 applicants. "We have a well-established first-year program. We were chosen based on the strength of Western's students, faculty, staff and administration," said Bob Klostermeyer, acting dean of student development.

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Gardner has received many accolades for his expertise in creating programs to enhance learning, success, and graduation of students in transition, particularly first-year students. He has served as the executive director of the Policy Center for more than four years and is also a Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership at Brevard College, Brevard, N.C. Gardner is the Senior Fellow of the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, which he founded in 1986.

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INTERVIEW/PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOHN GARDNER

- Gardner will address students from 11 a.m. – noon in the Warren E. Hearnes Learning Resource Center, room 102, and will be available for a short interview immediately prior to the class.
- Gardner will be available from 2-3 p.m. in the Nelle Blum Student Union, room 228.
- Gardner will be available between 4:30 and 5 p.m. in the Nelle Blum Student Union, room 220.

Please contact Kristy Hill at (816) 271-5649 to arrange an interview.

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.