



News Release

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MISS MISSOURI AMBER ETHERIDGE TO SPEAK AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. — April 8, 2004—Miss Missouri 2003, Amber Marie Etheridge, will address the issue of date rape in two presentations on the campus of Missouri Western State College at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 20 in the Frank Popplewell Administration Classroom Building, room 304.

Etheridge, 23, a native of Springfield, Mo., graduated from Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, in 2003 with a degree in crime and society. As reigning Miss Missouri, she speaks out on violence against women along with rape prevention and awareness through education. A rape victim herself, she advocates open discussions about rape in order to prevent victims from feeling shame.

Etheridge also uses her position as a juvenile probation officer to reach America's youth about the issue of rape as well as volunteering with the Missouri Organization for Victims Assistance (MOVA). She earned her Miss Missouri title after being chosen as Miss Northwest Missouri and is currently preparing to enter the Miss America 2005 pageant in the fall.

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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.