



News Release

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WESTERN WILL INCREASE TUITION ZERO PERCENT NEXT YEAR

St. Joseph, Mo. —April 22, 2004— Missouri Western State College will be one of the few colleges in Missouri and across the nation not to increase the per credit hour tuition rate for the next academic year. At the April meeting, the Board of Regents approved the recommendation to hold level the \$146 per credit hour rate for in-state students and \$267 for out-of-state students next year.

“At Western we are a student-centered institution,” said President James Scanlon. “We believe that it was important not to increase our per credit hour rate. Our conservative approach to spending and the sacrifices our faculty and staff have made have allowed the college to do this.”

Dr. Scanlon cited the college’s conservative approach to spending, the expectation of at least level state funding for the next year, and the recent release of state withholdings as factors that allowed the administration to recommend this proposal.

“Western’s tuition remains among the most affordable in the state. Western’s commitment to students and wise fiscal planning allowed the board to approve this plan,” said Susan Colgan, president of Western’s Board of Regents.

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Almost all of the colleges and universities in the state have announced their tuition and fee schedules for next year. Most of them are raising their tuition and fees, some substantially, reported Ron Olinger, Western's vice president for financial planning and administration.

According to Dr. Scanlon another consideration was the ability of students to continue to pay the cost of increased tuition. This is a concern for Western as its students report a household income well below the average household income for colleges and universities in Missouri. In addition approximately 74% of Western students receive some form of financial aid. Students receive an average of \$2,450 in grants and scholarships each year that help offset the cost of tuition.

The Board also approved the same rate of tuition (\$146 for in state; \$267 for out of state) for all credit hours. This will change the rate for the 13th, 14th and 15th credit hours.

"The levels of state funding remain uncertain from year to year, so it is impossible to predict how that may affect tuition in future years. Our students will continue to be the top priority in our budget and tuition planning process," concluded Dr. Scanlon.

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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.