



# News Release

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## WESTERN ANNOUNCES SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —April 21, 2005—Spring Commencement ceremonies for Missouri Western State College will be held at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 14 in the M.O. Looney Complex. Dr. Charles Bruffy, a 1981 graduate, will be the featured speaker at both ceremonies. Doors open at 9:45 a.m. for the morning ceremony and at 1:45 p.m. for the afternoon ceremony.

The pinning ceremony for nurses will be held at 9 a.m. May 14 in the Thompson E. Potter Hall Theater. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The ROTC commissioning ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. May 13 in the Leah Spratt Hall Enright Room. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

A free reception for graduates and their families will be held between ceremonies at noon-2 p.m. on the lawn of the Looney Complex. The reception is sponsored by the Western Alumni Association.

Dr. Bruffy is one of the most highly respected and sought-after choral conductors in the nation. He has been the artistic director of the Phoenix Bach choir since 1999 and artistic director of the Kansas City Chorale since 1988.

Dr. Bruffy earned a bachelor's degree in music from Western, and completed both his master's degree in vocal performance and doctorate degree in conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In the spring of 2003, he and the Kansas City Chorale were featured performers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as part of its "I Hear America Singing" series. Both the Kansas City Chorale and the Phoenix Bach Choir

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have been featured on National Public Radio's (NPR) "Performance Today" and Chorus America's "The First Art." In addition to his work with these choirs, Dr. Bruffy frequently conducts festival choirs around the world and is dedicated to commissioning and premiering works by contemporary composers.

Commencement 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; 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.

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.*