



News Release

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EXPERIENCE WESTERN! A GREAT SUCCESS

St. Joseph, Mo. — April 15, 2005 — Missouri Western State College opened its doors to the community with “Experience Western! Discover the Treasure,” a variety of fun and informative activities at on Saturday, and the community responded in a big way. Over 1,000 visitors of all ages joined in the fun and took advantage of the free activities.

Glitter and glue, face paint and beads, musical instruments, a “mine shaft,” a MASH tent and hundreds of children and their parents filled the Treasure Island children’s area of Experience Western! on the second floor of the Nelle Blum Union. At times throughout the day, it was difficult for visitors to wend their way around clowns, balloons and children. Youngsters skipped away from Treasure Island with a helium balloon, a balloon animal, and a giveaway bag full of gifts, and craft items they had made.

“There was something for everyone,” said Erin Tieman who, with her husband, Lee, brought their three children to the event. “My toddler was playing with Legos and at the next table, his sister was building a craft. The activities were great, and the kids had a lot of favorites.” She said they stayed at least an hour longer than they had intended, and still had trouble getting the children to leave Treasure Island.

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Jeanne Modlin, '85, and her husband, John, brought four of their children to the event because it looked like there would be a lot of fun activities for them to do. "They had a ball. There was something there for all of them," she said.

Both she and Tieman commented that their children really enjoyed "Mining for Health," an activity to encourage healthy habits sponsored by the nursing students. "It was educational and hands on, and something they don't get to do every day," said Tieman.

She said that although she and her husband had lived in St. Joseph for several years, they had never had the opportunity to really visit the Western campus. "It gave our family the opportunity to view the facilities and to see the people associated with the college," she said. "I was really impressed with the entire event."

The Fulkerson Center made its debut as a conference center that day, as more than 60 displays from all academic departments and several community groups transformed the Center into a showcase of information and services.

Modlin said her family enjoyed the displays, and they picked up some financial aid information for their daughter who is a junior in high school. She said she liked having her children come out and learn about her alma mater. "It was interesting learning about the departments and what Missouri Western has to offer," she said. "Everyone was very helpful and willing to talk about their departments. I hope they do it (Experience Western!) again. It was a good way for families to see the college."

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The music department wowed the crowd with performances from its Steel Drum Band, Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers; and audiences loved the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity step show. The Western Institute's Center for Arts and Culture's voice students entertained crowds in the Fulkerson Center, also.

Approximately 100 cars of all makes and models turned out for the car show, and it drew a large crowd of onlookers. The day also included presentations and displays of student research.

"Campus support was outstanding, as almost every department had a role in Experience Western!" said Kristy Hill, director of public relations and marketing, and coordinator of the event. "And the turnout from the community was just as we had hoped. We were pleased that so many people from the area joined in on the fun."

"On the way to the car, we talked about what a great day it was," said Tieman. "This gave us a chance to realize that this college is part of our town. We decided we needed to be better supporters of Missouri Western."

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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.