



News Release

Missouri Western State College • 4525 Downs Drive • St. Joseph, MO 64507 • 816-271-5649

Contact: Kristy Hill

Phone: (816)-271-5649

Title: Public Relations/Marketing Director

Email: hillk@mwsc.edu

LIFESTYLE LIVING OFFERS EXTRAS FOR WESTERN STUDENTS

St. Joseph, Mo. —March 18, 2005—“There’s more to living in a residential hall than just coming here and sleeping.”

That comment, from one who is familiar with campus living, sums up the new emphasis placed on lifestyle choices at Missouri Western State College. Michael Speros, residential life director, is urging students to explore Western’s new housing options, including a new Living/Learning Center – a \$17 million, 400-bed residence hall.

Western begins housing signups March 21, and will offer three different lifestyle choices for residing on campus this fall: learning communities, academic lifestyles and interest housing. All three are geared to making life on campus more enjoyable and relevant to studies for the students, a dramatic contrast to the old college dorms.

Speros explained why Western strives to provide lifestyle living for students on campus. “Everybody’s different,” he said. “That’s the fun of it. You should be able to find a niche where you can be comfortable. That’s what lifestyle floors are all about – for students to be happy and successful.”

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The new residence hall will be almost all lifestyle housing, and the new lifestyles are being offered in the other halls as well.

Students in Learning Communities take three classes together, and the faculty in those classes coordinate learning and assignments. There are currently 10 Learning Communities, and three freshmen Learning Communities of up to 25 students each will be housed in the new hall: Freedom of Expression, Voices of Leadership and Science of Wellness.

“Learning Communities are what the national trend is toward,” noted Speros. “A lot of residence departments in colleges are moving toward Learning Communities. It makes the students’ experiences more relevant in and out of class, and gives students the ability to see connections between the classes they take and the real world. With its Learning Communities, Western is on the cutting edge.”

The academic lifestyles option will offer honors and music for the fall term. These students live on the same floor together, but are not necessarily in the same classes. Each floor will have a faculty mentor who will work with the resident assistant. Western is surveying students so that it can offer more academic floors in the future.

Interest housing students are surrounded by people who share their interests. This fall, students can choose a freshman floor, upperclass floor, leadership/service floor (where students will meet business people from the community) or wellness floor, where students commit to a healthy lifestyle.

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Speros is also encouraging students who currently do not live on campus to consider moving into a residential hall this fall. He said they are offering those student several incentives.

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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.