



# News Release

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## WESTERN FACULTY AND STAFF

### RECOGNIZED AT AWARDS CEREMONY

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —May 24, 2006—Missouri Western State University recognized four retirees and the 2006 recipients of four university awards at a ceremony this month in the Potter Hall Fine Arts Theater.

Three Presidential Citation Awards were given. Rosalie Guyer, A+ coordinator, received the Service to Western Students Award; Tracy Sharp, administrative assistant for government, social work and sociology, received the Service to Campus Colleagues Award; and Ellen Kisker, director of nontraditional student services, received the Service to the University Award.

The James J. Scanlon Service-Leader Awards for outstanding community service over a sustained period of time were given to Dr. Ken Rosenauer, professor of journalism and chair of the English, foreign languages and journalism department; and Dennis Johnson, parking and security services coordinator.

The following retirees were honored: Dr. Bill Eickhorst, professor of art; Sandy McGuire, custodial services; Dr. Robert Shell, associate professor of Spanish; and Dr. Sharon Wagner, associate professor of business.

The Service to Western Students Award recognizes employees for their outstanding commitment to helping students grow as individuals and as members of the campus community. Guyer, who joined Western in 1988, coordinates the A+ Program and advises the majority of the students who attend Western with A+ funding. She teaches freshman seminar courses, teaches as part of the Learning Communities, has presented at national conferences and has a proposal accepted for the fall national academic advising conference. One of her nomination letters stated that, “the students recognize her commitment and give her highly positive evaluations, seeing her as a caring individual who is concerned for their academic and personal welfare.”

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The Service to Campus Colleagues Award recognizes employees for outstanding assistance to fellow employees. Sharp, administrative assistant for the department of government, social work, and sociology since 2001, supports nine faculty members in her department. Her nomination letter state that she demonstrates excellent student support and student-centered service. Students who come in contact with the department have told faculty how she goes out of her way to assist them in a pleasant, respectful manner.

The Service to the University Award recognizes employees who serve as a true ambassador to Western. Kisker coordinates university events for nontraditional students and is the liaison for the Ambassadors organization. She teaches sections of the freshman seminar for nontraditional students, and is an academic advisor. She is also the advisor for the Nontraditional Club and Omicron Psi, a nontraditional student honor society. Her nomination noted that she is recognized for being a motivational and encouraging person, often being the inspiration that keeps students motivated to stay in school and continue striving. She has been with Western since 1987.

Dr. Rosenauer is a member of the Savannah R-III School board, vice president of the Savannah band booster club, assistant basketball coach for a children's team, and has chaired many fundraising efforts for the school. Dr. Rosenauer writes a weekly column for the Savannah Reporter newspaper. For the past six years, he has been the president of the Apple Blossom celebration in St. Joseph, and has created and maintained a website for the celebration. Dr. Rosenauer is active in his church, serving as sound technician for a weekly service, as a lay minister and teacher. He also performs with the Ashland Ministry Players, a drama team that performs for worship and church activities.

Johnson, public safety officer since 2001, set up the safety and evacuation procedure on campus and trains building safety coordinators. He also serves as fire chief of the South Central Buchanan County Fire Department, treasurer of the Buchanan County Local Emergency Planning Committee, hazmat technician and captain of the Region H Homeland Security Team, Region H board member of the Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association, and reserve deputy of the Buchanan County Sheriff Department.

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Johnson's service roles include emergency medical technician, emergency response instructor for the American Red Cross, a licensed fire investigator for the Missouri Fire Marshall's Office, a specialist instructor for Missouri POST Law Enforcement, and treasurer and founding president of the Buchanan County Chiefs' Association.

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