



# News Release

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## **WESTERN RECEIVES DONATION FOR UNIVERSITY PLAZA**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —April 12, 2006—Dr. James Scanlon, Missouri Western State University president, announced that the MWSU Foundation is the recipient of a gift from the John B. and Julia Comello Charitable Trust for the purpose of constructing a University Plaza on Western’s campus.

The plaza will be constructed in memory of John B. and Julia Comello and in recognition of the James B. Kelley family. The plaza will be designed to honor Western’s achievement of university designation and will be located on the east side of the campus near the Nelle Blum Student Union. The plaza could be in place as early as August, in time to commemorate the one-year anniversary of university designation.

“We are grateful for the generosity of the Kelley family,” said Dr. Scanlon. “The University Plaza will capture the courage and imagination of the many friends, alumni, faculty, staff and students who worked so hard over the past 90 years to make Western the university that it is today.”

Members of the Kelley family include James and Jean Kelley, and their children, Jeanie Grahl ’72, Molly Pierce ’77, and Chris Kelley ’86; and their granddaughter, Kelley Meirose ’99.

“This gift is a tribute to the Kelley family’s ardent and loyal support for Western for many years,” said Jerry Pickman, director of development. “James and Jean Kelley can be very proud that three of their children and a granddaughter have all graduated from Western. They had the opportunity to pursue their college education elsewhere, but they chose to be Griffons.”

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*Missouri Western State University is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The university 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.*