



News Release

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PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS EDUCATION MAJORS

St. Joseph, Mo.—July 21, 2003—With the stroke of a pen today, “2+2+2” equaled a great opportunity for those pursuing an education undergraduate and/or a graduate degree. Representatives from Metropolitan Community Colleges of Kansas City, Missouri Western State College of St. Joseph, Mo., and University of Missouri – Kansas City (UMKC) signed a partnership agreement for a seamless teacher education curriculum located entirely in Kansas City’s Northland. The signing ceremony was held at UMKC’s North location on the upper level at Metro North Mall on Barry Road.

The agreement between the three institutions offers a student the opportunity to earn an associate degree with an emphasis in teacher education at any of the Metropolitan Community Colleges, followed by a bachelor of science degree in education from Western. Then, the student could earn one of several graduate degrees offered by UMKC. Course work for both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees could be completed at UMKC North at Metro North Mall. Students will have access to library services at all campuses.

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“The 2+2+2 agreement is based on a commitment by all partners to the educational future of our teachers and our children,” said UMKC Chancellor Martha W. Gilliland. “Even in times of fiscal distress for higher education in Missouri, these partners have created a new path to ensure access to a quality education by those top students who want to serve in education.”

The partnership has been called “seamless,” because students do not lose credits when they transfer to the next institution, saving them time and money. “This agreement supports students who are completing a degree in education at a time when Missouri needs teachers, and, considering the severe state budget cuts to higher education, students need all the financial help they can get,” noted Beverlye Brown, associate vice chancellor for Metropolitan Community Colleges.

Dr. Richard Porr, chair of the education department at Western, noted that although teacher education is designed for the full-time student, students at all levels are welcome to join the sequence at any point.

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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.