



News Release

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WESTERN BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVE BUDGET

St. Joseph, Mo. —June 25, 2003—The Board of Regents approved a \$40.7 million operating budget for the next fiscal year. This is a \$1.3million increase over the \$39.4 million budget approved for last year.

Western received an increase in state appropriations of about \$700,000 for a total appropriation of about \$20.1 million. “For the first time in three years, Western expects to begin the new fiscal year with both an increase in state funding from the previous fiscal year and no additional withholding of funds,” said President James Scanlon.

The approved budget plan includes a \$146 per credit hour tuition for next fiscal year. This constitutes no increase in tuition for the first 12 credit hours. “Western has shared the benefit of increased state funding with its students,” added Dr. Scanlon.

Another element of the budget plan is maintaining \$3.5 million in budget reserves. According to Dr. Scanlon, the uncertain financial situation in Missouri warrants a conservative approach, including maintaining college reserves.

Dr. Scanlon also reminded the regents that over the past three years Western has experienced a loss in state funding totaling about \$4.6 million. “The past three years have

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required substantial sacrifice by Western's employees as they worked in the best interests of students and the larger community with dramatically reduced state support. The budget plan is the most optimistic plan in three years. It was developed mindful of Missouri's improved fiscal situation and with certain assumptions about state funding and obligations to students and employees," Dr. Scanlon said.

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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.