



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@missouriwestern.edu

NEW SCULPTURE ON WESTERN CAMPUS

St. Joseph, Mo. —June 30, 2005—“Teachable art” is an apt description of the new sculpture that will soon be placed on the campus of Missouri Western State College. The 9-foot tall, 2,763-pound red steel piece on the east lawn of Truman E. Wilson Hall will not only add to the aesthetics of campus, but it will also serve as a teaching aid for construction engineering technology students. Area construction companies donated all materials and labor for the sculpture.

Alumnus Ellen Jordan of Midland Steel, whose employees fabricated the piece, said the sculpture is an artful piece that includes every connection that would be involved in the construction of a steel building. “It will allow students to see the real application of what they’re learning in the classroom. They will get a true visual understanding of steel framing and steel connections.” She said the sculpture will mainly be used in the structural steel and wood design course, and the instructor will have the drawing plans of the sculpture as a classroom aid, also.

Dr. Virendra Varma, professor of engineering technology and chair of the department, said he is excited to have the sculpture on campus. He said in the past, students had to visit construction sites to study what they now can learn from the sculpture.

-more-

Page 2 of 2 – Sculpture

Companies donating labor and materials to the project along with Midland Steel include Pro Star Steel Erectors, Lawhon Construction, DE Contracting, Builders Choice Concrete Company and American Institute of Steel Construction.

Jordan noted that all the companies involved have a vested interest in Western, whether they were involved in construction of the campus buildings, or employing graduates. She said Midland Steel has seven Western graduates in their employ, including five from the construction engineering technology program.

“Missouri Western is such a big benefit to the community; it’s nice when companies can give back,” she said.

—end—

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.