



# News Release

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## **WESTERN'S RECORDING STUDIO PREPARES STUDENTS**

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Aug. 7, 2006— Jon Paul Bellamy, who graduated from Missouri Western State University in 2005, believes his experiences in Western's recording studio as a student helped him a lot in his career as a band director at Liberty High School in Mountain View, Mo.

Making sure music students like Bellamy have that experience is the goal of Mark Elting, instructor in the recording arts program at Western. He believes that students need to be knowledgeable about the latest music technology in order to have successful music careers today, and the university's recording studio and control room is providing just that. In the past three years, the studio has tripled in size and added several pieces of new equipment and upgrades; and the number of students it serves continues to increase as well.

"Mr. Elting taught me a lot," Bellamy said. "He was very good about giving you opportunities for experience, and giving you what you need. I'm now able to teach my students that aspect of music." He said he has also used what he learned at Western to record music performances at his high school, and set up sound systems for them.

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“We’re trying to prepare our students for real world careers,” Elting said. “What we teach here will apply to whatever they go into.” He noted, for example, that the digital editing software in the studio is the industry standard, so students become familiar with what is being used in the field and are thus more marketable.

In the past three years, along with the up-to-date software, the studio, which serves as Elting’s classroom, has gained new computer monitors, a new computer, new speakers, acoustic foam on the walls, new microphones, headphones, and new outboard gear with a power amplifier and digital interface for digital editing software. The recording studio, with a soundproof floating floor and lead door, has the capability to record performances in the adjoining band and chorus room, also.

“It’s an excellent room,” Elting said. “When I shut the door, I can’t even hear if the band is playing.”

He noted that an increasing number of students, both music and video majors, have become interested in learning recording technology. For example, more elementary, middle and high schools are requiring their music educators to be able to record and use music technology, so many music education majors sign up for his class now.

Additionally, community members often take his class to gain studio recording skills. At times throughout the semester, he said, the studio is booked 24 hours a day as students work on their projects for the class.

“We’re raising the standards so our students will be prepared for their careers. You have to have all the technology to be successful today,” said Elting.

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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.*