



News Release

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WESTERN COMMENCEMENT DEC. 16

St. Joseph, Mo. —Nov. 30, 2006—The Winter Commencement for summer and fall graduates at Missouri Western State University will be at 4 p.m. Dec. 16 in the M.O. Looney Complex arena. Mike Mills, deputy director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, will be the commencement speaker.

The Alumni Association is hosting a free reception for all graduates and their families from 1-3 p.m. in the Nelle Blum Union, 222-223. A pinning ceremony and reception for nursing graduates will begin at 1 p.m. in Thompson E. Potter Hall. An ROTC commissioning ceremony and reception will begin at 2 p.m. in Leah Spratt Hall Enright Room, 214.

Mills is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, with a degree in agricultural economics, and has been in his current position since 2005. He has previously held positions with U.S. Sens. Kit Bond and John Ashcroft, as the director of research for the Missouri Soybean Association and Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. In 1999, he became the professional staff for the U.S. House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Rural Enterprises, Business Opportunities, and Special Small Business Problems. In 2001, he rejoined Sen. Bond's office as Deputy State Director.

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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.