



News Release

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NEW SCULPTURE ON WESTERN'S CAMPUS

St. Joseph, Mo. —Oct. 16, 2006—Just east of Thompson E. Potter hall, a black metal monolith reaches up to the sky. Its crossbars at the top are arranged at interesting angles, and a smaller piece rests at its side. That is “Beyond 2010,” a new contemporary sculpture that now graces the campus of Missouri Western State University, thanks to the work of Jim Estes, professor of art.

“I hope the structure is a visually pleasing work for our campus,” said Estes. “I don’t have a hidden message in it, but if it makes people curious, that’s good. Hopefully people will enjoy its beauty.”

Estes, who has taught at Western for 35 years and created works for over 130 shows all over the country, said he had never created an outdoor sculpture before. When he received the Distinguished Professor Award in 2004 and was given \$1,000 for professional development, his proposal was to design and build the sculpture.

He had to learn all about MIG welding and figure out the logistics of purchasing materials for a large sculpture, and make sure the 600-pound structure would balance on a concrete base. There was no room to stand it up until the work of art was completed. “I wanted a change of direction as I look toward the waning years of my profession. It’s nice at this point in my career to be embarking on things I haven’t figured out; that’s

exciting.” He said he learned a lot about sculpting large pieces, and he hopes to create more. He is already working on the design for a much larger second piece for Western’s campus.

Estes said he chose a contemporary design because he believes Western is looking ahead, changing and growing. “I wanted the spirit of a forward-looking institution to be reflected in that.”

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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.