



# News Release

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## WESTERN FOUNDATION HOLDS “THANK YOU” LUNCHEON

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —May 20, 2005—The Missouri Western State College Foundation hosted a “Thank You” luncheon May 19 for the volunteers who helped kick off its Go for the Gold campaign to enroll charter members in the newly formed Western League for Excellence.

The League is an honorary society for those who donate \$100 or more of unrestricted funds to the Western Foundation. The first phase of the campaign, which began March 14 and concluded with the luncheon, resulted in an enrollment of over 150 individuals and businesses into the League, and over \$70,000 raised. That dollar amount includes four League members who contributed \$5,000 or more.

“It will be the generosity of many alumni and friends that will assure Western’s continued progress and high standards of excellence, and we established the League to recognize and honor those donors,” said Dan Nicoson, executive director of the Western Foundation and vice president for institutional advancement. “We sincerely appreciate the generous support we have received to date.”

Nicoson noted that charter members of the League include all 31 members of the Foundation board of directors, all members of the president’s cabinet, and the six members of the Board of Regents. Foundation board member Emil Sechter served as the campaign chair. Vice chairs, also members of the board, included Pete Gray, Carol Moya and Al Purcell.

At the luncheon, Development Director Jerry Pickman distributed awards to the campaign volunteers. Over 70 community members volunteered in the campaign.

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## **Page 2 of 2 – League Luncheon**

Sechter said a unique aspect of the League is that donors express their intent to contribute at a designated level each year as long as they are able to do so. Therefore, if the current members of the league maintain their enrollment an average of five years, the results will be over \$350,000.

“Missouri Western is a huge asset to our community,” he said. “It is doing a great job of turning out excellent students, and we need to support it. This is a cause that is absolutely vital so students can take advantage of extraordinary opportunities and get the quality education they need.”

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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.*