



# 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@mwsc.edu](mailto:hillk@mwsc.edu)

## WESTERN'S LIBRARY TO BE REMODELED WITH FUNDING FROM THE WESTERN FOUNDATION'S BRADLEY ENDOWMENT

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Jan. 31, 2005— The library in the Warren E. Hearnes Learning Resource Center at Western Missouri Western State College will be remodeled this summer to be more inviting to users and to allow for an enhancement of its services, thanks to funding from the David and Shirley Bradley Endowment Fund established in 1988 in the Western Foundation. An entire wing of the Learning Resource Center is currently known as the “Bradley Wing” in honor of a previous gift from Mr. and Mrs. David Bradley Sr.

The changes will focus on the main floor of the library facility. A modern and comfortable lounge area will be added, which will include the installation of a wireless network, a coffee bar/internet café, and comfortable furnishings. The environment will be similar to that found in popular coffee shops and bookstores that will support the expanded use of laptop computers. The stack area will also be reconfigured to make it more open and accessible.

The general appearance will be updated with the installation of new carpeting, ceiling tiles, paneling and painted surfaces. Iron grillwork will be replaced with tempered glazed panels. A wall dividing the lounge area from the library proper and a rock garden pit surrounding the staircase will be removed.

Western's vice president for academic and student affairs, David Arnold, expressed enthusiasm about the scheduled improvements. “The library is an integral part of the academic programming and environment. This renovation is a part of Western's commitment to quality and to providing our students with the best possible support.”

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The contractor for the project is Lee Grover Construction Co. from St. Joseph. The work is scheduled to be done this summer and be completed prior to the opening of classes in the fall. The total cost is approximately \$200,000. Some of these funds will come from Western's capital improvements funds and the majority will be provided by the Western Foundation from the David and Shirley Bradley Endowment Fund.

"We are grateful to Mrs. Shirley Bradley for allowing the parameters of the endowment to be expanded to include this project," explained Dan Nicoson, Western's vice president for institutional advancement. "The Bradley Family has been generous in its support of Western over the years, and they have demonstrated a special interest in library resources and programs related to literacy."

Western's president, James Scanlon, added, "This is yet another example of a partnership of the public and private sectors for good outcomes. Western's history includes one account after another of community support leading to a stronger college. We believe that, with the help of the community, Western will someday be recognized as a university and our library will be a positive factor in fulfilling that role."

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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.*