



# News Release

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## WESTERN OFFERS NEW HOUSING OPTIONS

**St. Joseph, Mo.** —Feb. 16, 2005—Noah Haahr has a strong recommendation for students at Missouri Western State College: live on campus. Haahr, a junior from Pleasant Hope, Mo. and residence council president, said he loves campus life and always tries to encourage students to live in the residence halls.

This fall, Western students will have a new \$17 million, 400-bed residence hall and more choices for “lifestyle” housing, according to Residential Life Director Michael Speros. He said students need to be thinking now about their “lifestyle” choices and where they want to live next fall, because housing contract signup for current students will be March 21 - 24. New students are encouraged to submit their housing contracts as early as possible.

“I am still friends with all the guys I lived with my first semester of my freshman year even though we don’t live together anymore,” said Haahr. “The benefits of living on campus are overwhelming. I would strongly recommend students take the opportunity, especially those who are freshmen or transferring to Western.”

The new residence hall features single and double rooms, and study lounges, laundry facilities and a kitchenette on every floor. The hall is the cornerstone of Western’s Learning Communities initiative, where student groups attend classes together and live together in a community setting. There are currently 10 Learning Communities, and three freshman Learning Communities of up to 25 students each will be housed in the new hall: Freedom of Expression, Voices of Leadership and Science of Wellness.

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The new hall, however, will be open to upperclass students as well as freshmen. Speros believes the older students will be interested in the single rooms that the new hall offers.

He said the expanded “lifestyle” housing choices give students the opportunity to live near others who share their interests. The lifestyle may be related to academics or common interests, such as Healthy Living on the wellness floor. Some of the other lifestyle options for students at Western this fall include quiet lifestyle, transfer/continuing students, leadership/service learning, junior/senior floor, honors and music. In addition, Leaverton Hall will have an all-female floor and Juda will become coed. With the new hall, the college will significantly expand its “lifestyle” housing options.

“The push to develop lifestyle floors is a major transition and focus for Western, and we hope to offer more in the future,” Speros said. He said these options are part of a transformation of the services and programs offered by the residential life office, and the office is continuing to explore more academic lifestyle housing for the future. This spring, the office will conduct a national benchmarking survey among students who live on campus to determine student needs.

For more information, contact Western’s housing and residential life office at 816-271-7101 or visit their website at [www.mwsc.edu/reslife](http://www.mwsc.edu/reslife).

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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.*