

# ALUMNI & FOUNDATION

## Foundation

The Missouri Western State University Foundation was established in 1969 as an independent entity to promote private giving to help the University move into the forefront of public higher education. The Foundation encourages, holds, invests and disburses private gifts of cash, securities, appreciated assets and personal property, all toward the goal of providing services, programs and facilities that strengthen the mission of the University.

Donations and gifts may be unrestricted or restricted to target specific interests of the University including scholarships, awards, equipment grants, program funding and capital improvements or may be unrestricted to assist with the future needs that meet the goals of the institution.

Major gifts to the Foundation have contributed substantially toward the growth of the University and its continuous goal of excellence in such projects as the Fulkerson Center, Spratt Memorial Stadium, improvements to the Hearnes Center, Leah Spratt Hall, the Glenn E. Marion Memorial Clock Tower, the University Plaza, Kelley Commons, the Walter Cronkite Memorial, and the Agenstein/Remington Halls project, and the establishment of the Craig School of Business.

Capital campaigns allow the Foundation to secure private sector resources to perpetuate the distinctive values and contributions of Missouri Western State University. Funding for the Agenstein Hall renovation and construction of Remington Hall were part of Missouri Western's previous capital campaign, Achieving Greatness. The Foundation is currently raising funds for facilities, endowments and programming as part of the Centennial Capital Campaign, which went public in January 2015.

The Missouri Western Foundation is a tax-exempt corporation; therefore, gifts made through it are tax deductible as appropriate. Its activities are directed by an independent, volunteer board that works closely with the University administration to identify needs and allocate funds.

## The Missouri Western Alumni Association

The Missouri Western Alumni Association was established in 1970 to advance the educational interests of the University. The Association provides opportunities for alumni to stay connected to Missouri Western and offers student scholarships each year.

The Alumni Association hosts Homecoming activities and reunions, Commencement receptions for graduates and their families, as well as the Forever Griffons Luncheon, which celebrates graduates of 40 years or more. The Alumni Association coordinates as many as 40 activities throughout the year through its regional chapters -- St. Joseph, Kansas City and St. Louis -- and its alumni networks -- Mama Griffs (a family-focused group), the Craig School of Business Alumni Network, Black Alumni Network, Griffon Band Alumni and Forever Griffons.

During Homecoming week, the Association recognizes outstanding alumni, a current faculty member and a University supporter at its annual banquet. Nominations for the awards may be submitted year round on the University website. Distinguished alumni include Esther George '80, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Bill Snyder '59, Kansas State head football coach, Charles Bruffy '81, multiple Grammy Award winner conductor of the Kansas City Chorus and Phoenix Chorale,

and Cheri Kempf '85, softball analyst for ESPN and commissioner of National Pro Fastpitch.

The Association serves more than 29,000 Missouri Western alumni who reside in all 50 states as well as several foreign countries and territories. A list of alumni events and activities can be found at [www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events) (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/alumni/events>).

## Missouri Western Ambassadors

The Missouri Western State University Ambassadors is comprised of community and campus members who are interested in the University and what it offers to the community at large. The Ambassadors serve as a bridge between the campus and community.

Through their activities, they make St. Joseph and surrounding communities aware of the educational, cultural and financial benefits of Missouri Western. The major focus of the Ambassadors is to raise funds for scholarships for nontraditional students. Their fundraiser, Night at the Ritz, is held every spring, and three luncheon/meetings are held every year. For more information, contact Diane Holtz, (816) 271-5651 or [holtz@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:holtz@missouriwestern.edu).