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## UA3/9/5 Central Regional Postsecondary Education Center Dedication

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**DEDICATION OF THE CENTRAL REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY  
EDUCATION CENTER**

**APRIL 25, 2002**

**GARY A. RANDELL, PRESIDENT**

**WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY VALUES ITS LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF PROVIDING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES WHEREVER THERE IS NEED. HONORING THIS COMMITMENT HAS MEANT CONNECTING WESTERN WITH AREAS OF THE STATE IN NEED OF EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH, DESPITE THE MILES THAT SEPARATE SUCH COMMUNITIES FROM THE MAIN BOWLING GREEN CAMPUS. THROUGH ITS DEVOTION TO ENSURING ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL WHO SEEK THEM, WESTERN HAS HELPED INCREASE THE NUMBER OF WELL-TRAINED TEACHERS, NURSES, AND OTHER HIGHLY SKILLED PROFESSIONALS WHOSE WESTERN EXPERIENCE HAS ALLOWED THEM TO BETTER SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES.

WESTERN IS PLEASED TO BE PARTNERING WITH THE ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND THE ELIZABETHTOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE TO OFFER STUDENTS IN THIS AREA A VARIETY OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OPTIONS IN A SINGLE CONVENIENT LOCATION. THE CENTRAL REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

CENTER WILL BRING A HIGHER STANDARD OF EDUCATION AND CREATE A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE TO PEOPLE IN THIS REGION. LET ME SAY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY HOW PLEASED I AM TO BE PART OF THIS MISSION.

WESTERN CURRENTLY SERVES OVER 600 STUDENTS AT THE ELIZABETHTOWN EXTENDED CAMPUS. THOSE STUDENTS COME FROM 18 KENTUCKY COUNTIES, INCLUDING HARDIN, MEADE, GRAYSON, BRECKINRIDGE, HART, LARUE, TAYLOR, AND GREEN.

WESTERN'S OFFERINGS AT THE ELIZABETHTOWN CAMPUS INCLUDE A VARIETY OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS. WESTERN'S PRESENCE HERE HAS ALLOWED MANY PEOPLE TO EMBARK UPON CAREERS AS NURSES AND TEACHERS, BETTERING BOTH THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS. WESTERN OFFERS MASTER'S LEVEL DEGREE PROGRAMS IN ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE GRADES, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION SO THAT TEACHERS CAN REMAIN IN THE WORKFORCE WHILE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATIONS. WE ALSO OFFER RANK 1 CERTIFICATIONS IN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND COUNSELING. MANY WKU STUDENTS AT THE ELIZABETHTOWN EXTENDED CAMPUS ARE ENROLLED IN EDUCATION-RELATED PROGRAMS. WESTERN'S COMMITMENT TO THOSE PROGRAMS AND TO THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THEM REMAINS



STRONG. THE NEW CENTRAL REGIONAL POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CENTER HAS ENABLED WESTERN TO EXPAND ITS OFFERINGS TO INCLUDE A B.S. IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, A PROGRAM THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION, AND A B.S. IN MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION. BOTH PROGRAMS HAVE SPARKED A HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST FROM APPLICANTS TO THE NEW CENTER.

WESTERN WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE AN OFFICE AND OFFER CLASSES AT FORT KNOX AS WE HAVE DONE FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, WORKING TO ENSURE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THEY, TOO, WILL BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE NEW EDUCATION CENTER, BY HAVING A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT OFFERS A MULTITUDE OF CHOICES OF COURSES AND PROGRAMS IN ONE LOCATION.

I KNOW THERE IS A SIZABLE CONTINGENT OF WKU ALUMNI IN OUR AUDIENCE TODAY, AND I WANT TO THANK <sup>each of you for your</sup> ~~THEM~~ FOR COMING OUT AND ~~SHOWING THEIR~~ SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM FOR WHAT WILL CERTAINLY BE A BENEFIT TO THIS REGION AND ONE THAT WILL MOST SURELY LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN WESTERN'S <sup>future</sup> ~~ALUMNI~~ REPRESENTATION IN THIS PART OF KENTUCKY.

RON STEPHENS

I FEEL CONFIDENT IN SPEAKING FOR ALL WKU FACULTY AND STAFF WHEN I SAY THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO A PRODUCTIVE AND LONG-LASTING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR NEW PARTNERS AS WE SHARE DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, FACULTY, FACILITIES, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE GOAL OF MEETING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THIS REGION AND ENCOURAGING WITHIN ITS CITIZENS THAT DESIRE FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION AND THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IT BRINGS.