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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. RANSDELL, 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 THEM FOR COMING 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 ALUMNI REPRESENTATION IN THIS PART OF KENTUCKY.
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.