James Johnson, Jr. to address Western students in observance of Black History Month

In observance of Black History Month, Mr. James Johnson, Jr., the 2014 WOSC Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, will address Western students and the community on Friday, February 7 at 11:00 a.m. in the Herschal H. Crow Fine Arts Center. Johnson will speak about his journey through education, careers in criminal justice, and his 34–year career working with at-risk youth and juveniles. Mr. Johnson has spent a lifetime mentoring young people and is passionate about their success. “I don’t care if I speak to 1 student or 200 students. If I can help just one understand the importance of a college education or how they can influence others my time will be well spent.”

Johnson is a 1978 Western graduate, played center for the first Pioneer basketball team and was Mr. WOSC 1978. His distinguished career began in 1980 as a social worker at the Lawton Boy’s Group Home. Since then he has held various leadership positions in his field, working with troubled youth at the Juvenile Services Unit in Lawton, the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center in Tecumseh, and the Office of Juvenile Affairs in Oklahoma City. Today he serves as the Executive Director of Juvenile Justice Residential Service at Community Works, LLC in Norman.

The WOSC Alumni Hall of Fame, established in 1996, recognizes and honors Altus Junior College and Western Oklahoma State College alumni who, through leadership, character and hard work, have made exceptional contributions in their field, in their community, and at WOSC. Inductees are honored each February at the Annual Foundation and Alumni Recognition Banquet. Also recognized at the banquet are the generous gifts of many WOSC Foundation, Inc. donors.

Entertainment for the event will feature the musical talent of the Raegan Felker Trio. Tickets are $15.00 per person and can be reserved through the Office of Development and Alumni Relations by email at foundation@wosc.edu or by phone at 580-477-7706. Please reserve tickets by Friday, January 31 with Alumni Office.