2-20-2021

Founders' Day Convocation (2021 Program and video)

Illinois Wesleyan University

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We stand in a position of incalculable responsibility to the great wave of population overspreading the valley of the Mississippi. Destiny seems to point out this valley as the depository of the great heart of the nation. From this center, mighty pulsations, for good or evil, must in the future flow, which shall not only affect the fortune of the republic, but reach in their influence other and distant nations of the earth.

The Founders of Illinois Wesleyan University

Peter Cartwright  
C. W. Lewis  
J. C. Finley  
John S. Barger  
James Leaton  
John Van Cleve  
James F. Jaquess  
William J. Rutledge  
C. M. Holliday  
W. D. R. Trotter

W. H. Allin  
W. C. Hobbs  
John E. McClun  
John Magoun  
Thomas Magee  
William Wallace  
Charles P. Merriman  
James Miller  
William H. Holmes  
Linus Graves

Thomas P. Rogers  
John W. Ewing  
Lewis Bunn  
E. Thomas  
Isaac Funk  
James Allin  
D. Trimmer  
Kersey H. Fell  
Silas Watters  
Reuben Andrus

January 20, 2021
Program
President Georgia Nugent, Presiding

Prelude: This Day, So Full of Gladness
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Kevin Chunko, organist

A Founders Invocation
Monica Corsaro
Interim University Chaplain

Founders’ Day Remarks
Georgia Nugent
President

Introduction of Speaker
Georgia Nugent
President

Remarks
“Covid-19: The Great Disruptor”
Dr. Stephanie White ’91

Alma Wesleyana (please stand and join in singing)
national hymn
Elena Gjata ’23, soloist
George William Warren (1828-1902)

From hearts aflame, our love we pledge to thee,
Where’er we wander, over land or sea;
Through time unending, loyal we will be —
True to our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.
When college days are fully past and gone,
While life endures, from twilight dream til dawn,
Grandly thy soul shall with us linger on —
Star-crowned, our Alma Mater, Wesleyan.
— Professor W. E. Schultz (1935)

Postlude
Allegro risoluto
Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)

Stephanie Whyte ’91, MD, MBA, CHCQM, CHIE
Dr. Stephanie A. Whyte is a Senior Clinical Solutions Medical Director for Aetna Medicaid overseeing the medical director team serving Florida, Kentucky and Louisiana covering over 560,000 lives. Prior to this role, she was the deputy and interim Chief Medical Officer for Aetna Better Health of Kentucky. Dr. Whyte has been with Aetna Better Health since March 2015. While at Aetna, she has participated in the Health Care Equity Committee and National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee as well as serving as the Interim Chief Medical Officer for the Aetna Better Health of Illinois plan. Additionally, Dr. Whyte has served as a brand ambassador by representing Aetna Medicaid on the National Quality Forum’s Medicaid CHIP (MAC) Scorecard Committee in 2019.

Prior to joining Aetna, Dr. Whyte was the first ever Chief Health Officer for the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) – the third largest school district in the nation. She established a new office to focus on student health and wellness policy and programming, with an emphasis on removing barriers to learning. During her tenure, CPS became the first large urban school district to put undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors in each school for emergency use, and as a result, saved 70 lives. Before CPS, Dr. Whyte served as the Medical Director of Mobile Care Chicago, where she spent over a decade caring for children with asthma in Chicago’s most underserved neighborhoods.

Dr. Whyte is a board-certified pediatrician. She received her bachelor degree in biology from Illinois Wesleyan University, her MD from the Chicago Medical School (now Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science) and completed her Pediatric residency at Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans. She also holds an MBA in Public and Nonprofit Management from Saint Xavier University; is a certified health care insurance executive; and board certified in Health Care and Quality Management. Dr. Whyte has been honored with the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" from both the Chicago Medical School (2013) and Illinois Wesleyan University (2015). Dr. Whyte is a published author, lecturer, media spokesperson, and has served on various local, regional and national advisory boards.