



5-6-2009

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Recommended Citation

Hatch, Rachel, "Alumna Honored with State Women's Press Association Award" (2009).
News and Events. 336.

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May 6, 2009

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Alumna Honored with State Women's Press Association Award

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University alumna Lana (Weiss) Brown will be honored by the Illinois Woman's Press Association (IWPA) with the 2009 Communicator of Achievement Award. She will be presented with the award on Saturday, May 16 at the Union League Club of Chicago by fellow alumna and incoming IWPA President Marianne Wolf-Astrauskas.

"This award recognizes not just one year, but an entire body of work for the career of a communicator," said Wolf-Astrauskas, a 1976 alumna who won the award in 2008. "Being able to present this award to Lana is doubly exciting because not only is she an incredible communicator, but she is a fellow IWU alum."

In August, Brown will represent Illinois as its nominee for the National Communicator of Achievement Award from the National Federation of Press Women at the conference in San Antonio, Texas. Brown currently serves as the IWPA first vice president and program chair.

A graduate of the class of 1970, Brown is the owner of Lana Brown Communications, a speaking and writing consulting firm, which has assisted such companies as AT&T, Kraft, the National Education Association and the Museum of Broadcast Communications.

According to Wolf-Astrauskas, Brown is a lifelong educator who has written and produced award-winning publications, grants, curricula and marketing materials. She has taught at the secondary and collegiate levels, and is currently an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. She also coordinates the Michigan State University College of Education internship program with the Chicago Public Schools.

Brown has served as principal education consultant for the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago since 1996. There, she authored DocuFest, an online initiative recently honored for innovation by Oprah Winfrey. She is a freelance writer for the *Chicago Tribune*, among other news organizations. Her community magazine, *The Process*, was honored by the U.S. Dept of Education and the Library of Congress.

Brown currently serves on the Advisory Board of Directors of Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development. Her work on Northwestern's Civic Education Project with Johns

Hopkins University reflects her advocacy of service learning and civic education, said Wolf-Astrauskas.

A founding member on the boards for the Exploration Station Children's Museum and Young Peoples Theatre, she has also served on the board for the Kankakee Symphony Orchestra, Junior League, Catholic Charities, YMCA, Kankakee County Training Center for the Disabled and the Kankakee Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Brown is a recipient of the Zonta Leadership Award and the Illinois PTA Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information on the event, visit the IWPA Web site (www.iwpa.org).

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