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Celebrated Author Louise Erdrich to Visit IWU, ISU

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University will welcome esteemed author Louise Erdrich on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in Presser Hall (1201 N. Park St., Bloomington). She will speak as part of the eighth annual Ames/Milner Visiting Author Program, a joint venture between The Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University and Milner Library at Illinois State University.

Following is the schedule of the Ames/Milner Visiting Author program:

- 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.: Presentation followed by a question and answer session at Milner Library (201 N. School St., Normal), Illinois State University
- 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.: Presentation in Westbrook Auditorium at Presser Hall (1210 N. Park St., Bloomington), Illinois Wesleyan University. A book signing will follow in the John Wesley Powell Rotunda on the entry level of The Ames Library (#1 Ames Plaza, Bloomington), Illinois Wesleyan University.

The author of 12 novels, as well as volumes of poetry, children's books, and a memoir on early motherhood, Erdrich is a prolific writer who has been compared to renowned American authors such as William Faulkner.

Erdrich is famous for her series dubbed by some as the "Argus novels," after the fictional town in which they all take place. The books follow the stories of three interrelated families over multiple generations from 1912 to the 1980s. An immediate success, Erdrich won the National Book Critics Circle Award for best work of fiction in 1984, as well as the *Los Angeles Times* award for best novel of 1984.

Also noted for her series of children's novels, Erdrich wrote *The Birchbark House* in 1998, which deals with the lives of young Native-Americans during the time of white encroachment. Like many of her other works, critics praised the series. *Booklist* contributor Hazel Rochman connected it to Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House on the Prairie*, calling it "a different version of a story they [the readers] thought they knew."

Erdrich's most recent novel, *The Plague of Doves*, has already received high acclaim. "With *The Plague of Doves*, she has written what is arguably her most ambitious – and in many ways, her most deeply affecting work yet," said *The New York Times*.

For additional information, contact Lynda Duke, IWU academic outreach librarian and associate professor, at (309) 556-3220.

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