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Cavins Named Vice President For Student Affairs And Dean Of Students at IWU

May 10, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Kathryn M. Cavins, associate vice president for student services at Western Illinois University, has been named vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Cavins succeeds James Matthews who is stepping down as dean of students after seven years in order to return to full time teaching as associate professor of French.

Illinois Wesleyan President Richard F. Wilson announced Cavins' appointment, which is effective July 18, 2005.

"I am delighted that Kathy Cavins has accepted our invitation to join the university in this key leadership position," Wilson said. "The search committee did a superb job in identifying a strong pool of candidates from throughout the nation. Kathy's experience on a variety of initiatives at Western Illinois has been extremely impressive, and we look forward to having her experience and energy in leading our student affairs area. Her background is especially valuable as she succeeds Jim Matthews, who has provided exceptional leadership during his tenure as dean of students. Our support for students on any number of fronts is stronger because of his efforts."

Cavins received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Illinois in Macomb, Ill., and earned her Ph.D. in educational administration and foundations from Illinois State University.

In addition to her administrative position at Western Illinois, she has also served as an adjunct faculty member in the College Student Personnel program.

Cavins, who began her career at Western Illinois in residential life, was named assistant vice president for student services-student life in 1998 and became associate vice president for student services in 2001.

At Western Illinois, she supervised a \$29 million on-campus housing and dining program as well as a nationally recognized student activities program. She supervised an innovative student assistance center as well as Western Illinois' Cross-Cultural Education Program. She has worked with colleagues in academic affairs to create a First Year Experience Program and has led the division of student services in its participation in the American Democracy Project, a three-year program designed to engage college students in the life of their communities.

Cavins played a key role on Western Illinois' Strategic Planning Committee and has served on several community committees, including WIU's Integrated Marketing Committee and the Emergency Consultation Team. She is an active member of the Macomb Chamber of Commerce, serving as president during 1997-98.

In 2004, Cavins was named the Employee of the Year at Western Illinois by the Council of Administrative Personnel and was also the recipient of an Alumni Achievement Award.