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Four Illinois Wesleyan Students Accepted Into Teaching Corps

May 25, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Four Illinois Wesleyan University students have been accepted into Teach For America, a national corps of outstanding recent college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools.

The students, all Class of 2005 graduates, are:

- Denise Boban of Chicago, a sociology and Hispanic Studies major and a graduate of Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park;
- Andrew Kapral of Libertyville, Ill., a political science and philosophy major, who graduated from Libertyville High School;
- Patrick Poston of St. Petersburg, Fla., a political science and philosophy major, a graduate of Maria Carrillo High School in Santa Rosa, Calif.;
- Trevor Sierra of Beach Park, Ill., a political science major and a graduate of Zion-Benton Township High School

More than 17,000 graduating seniors and alumni applied to the corps from all across the country.

“The application numbers we're seeing reflect college students' belief that educational disparities must be our generation's civil rights issue,” said Elissa Clapp, Teach For America's vice president of recruitment and selection. “We are looking for accomplished individuals who possess the qualities necessary to not only have an impact on students during their two-year teaching commitment, but to effect long-term educational and social reform in careers across all sectors, including education, law, public policy, healthcare and business.”

Teach For America is highly selective, with approximately 16 percent of total applicants gaining admission in 2004. Ninety-three percent of those accepted held leadership positions on their campuses or in their communities.

Teach For America actively recruits on more than 500 college campuses, where it seeks applicants from all career interests and backgrounds who demonstrate a record of outstanding achievement in past endeavors, persistence in the face of challenges, and a strong sense of personal responsibility for outcomes. Beyond their two years, corps members take their insight and added commitment to assume leadership roles from inside education and from every other sector, and to work toward the fundamental changes necessary to provide more equal opportunities for all children.

Since Teach For America placed its first 500 corps members in classrooms in 1990, more than 12,000 outstanding college graduates have joined its movement to eliminate educational inequity. As of 2005, corps members teach in 22 locations in underserved communities across the country. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org.

