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Illinois Wesleyan Shares Teagle Foundation Grant for Assessment

June 17, 2005

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. - Illinois Wesleyan University is part of a six-college consortium that has received a \$300,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation of New York City for a program designed to measure civic engagement and intellectual development in students attending residential liberal arts colleges.

In addition to Illinois Wesleyan, the consortium includes Augustana College, which is administering the grant, Alma College of Michigan, Gustavus Adolphus College of Minnesota, Luther College of Iowa, and Wittenberg University of Ohio.

“We look forward to working on this project with the other members of our consortium,” said Illinois Wesleyan Provost Janet McNew. “With the Teagle Foundation's generous support, we will have an opportunity to explore this important area of assessment and to compare and contrast our results with peer institutions.”

More than 50 colleges throughout the United States divided into six different consortia received grants as part of the Teagle Foundation's Outcomes and Assessment Initiative.

W. Robert Connor, president of the Teagle Foundation, said in a statement on the foundation's Web site: “Nothing has the potential to enhance the educational experience as much as a sustained assessment of how and what students learn. Teagle's approach to assessment starts with teachers in the classroom, instead of being driven by pressure from the top down, to create new methods of understanding student engagement. We believe that once this knowledge is applied at other institutions, our work has the potential to far surpass the dollars we have invested.”

The Teagle Foundation was established in 1944 by Walter C. Teagle, longtime president and later chairman of the board of Standard Oil Company (New Jersey), now Exxon Mobil Corporation. The Foundation is committed to providing intellectual and financial leadership for the promotion and strengthening of liberal education.