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Illinois Wesleyan Student Wins ACI Scholarship

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—An Illinois Wesleyan University junior from Petersburg, Ill., has won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI), a coalition of 26 private colleges and universities that work together to meet the needs of business, education, and society.

Rachel Throckmorton, a music-education major and 1997 Petersburg PORTA High School graduate, received a UPS Foundation Scholarship.

Throckmorton, who plays the clarinet and wants to teach music, said: "I want to share what I love and pass it on. I want to see others appreciate music the way I do."

During the 1999-2000 school year, ACI awarded 127 scholarships valued at \$210,000.

ACI, which is based in Chicago, is the only statewide, non-government organization providing college scholarships to students. For the past decade, the ACI Scholarship Program has ensured that financial need does not prevent students at Illinois' network of private colleges and universities from achieving their educational objectives.

Funded by corporations and foundations, ACI scholarships—ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000—target students' specific needs:

- o College-to-Work Scholarships attract more students into specific fields of study;
- o Minority Scholarships support minority achievement and graduation;
- o Academic Merit Scholarships identify the best and the brightest students;
- o Emergency Assistance Fund directs critical financial support to students experiencing personal or family emergencies.

Donors to the ACI Scholarship Program include the McGraw Foundation, Pepper Family Foundation, Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, A. Montgomery Ward Foundation, Peter and Michelle Willmott Fund for Minority Student Leadership, Polk Brothers Foundation, Frank J. Lewis Foundation, and the UPS Foundation, which is supporting Throckmorton's scholarship .

"By partnering with foundations and our member colleges," said Jerry Fuller, ACI executive director, "ACI provides vital support for higher education in Illinois . . . as the need for a highly trained workforce is on the rise."

Rachel Throckmorton is the daughter of Robert and Paula Throckmorton of 716 N. 12th St., Petersburg, Ill.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. A \$23 million library and a \$6 million student center are under construction.

Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a high-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.

ACI campuses collaborate with businesses, foundations, and other organizations across Illinois in order to enhance educational opportunities for Illinois students and meet business and society's needs for an educated workforce. ACI colleges represent 50,000 Illinois students, 10,000 faculty and staff, and aggregate institutional budgets of more than \$600 million.