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Oct. 19, 1998

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

Jaynanne Calaway of Bethalto, Ill. Illinois Wesleyan Senior Named Lincoln Laureate

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An Illinois Wesleyan University senior, majoring in economics and international studies with a concentration in diplomatic studies, will receive a Student Laureate Award from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, recognizing her academic and extracurricular achievements.

Jaynanne Corine Calaway of Bethalto, Ill., will join other college seniors from around the state at an Oct. 31, 11 a.m. awards ceremony at the Illinois House of Representatives, State Capitol, Springfield. The ceremony will be hosted by Gov. Jim Edgar (R) and other dignitaries.

"I feel incredibly honored," to be named a Lincoln Laureate, Calaway said, "because when I look around this campus I see so many incredibly multitalented students who are just as deserving--or more deserving--than I am.

"But, it is certainly nice," she added, "to work hard and be enthusiastic about classes and other involvements and feel that in the end it does pay."

Lincoln Laureates receive \$150, a certificate, and a medal. They also attend a luncheon at the governor's mansion in Springfield.

The Lincoln Laureate program honors students who have achieved academic excellence, reflecting the commitment to education symbolized by Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States who was from Illinois.

For the 1997-98 school year, Calaway was a visiting student at Pembroke College, Oxford University in England, enrolled in the Honour School of Political Science, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE).

"The British," Calaway said, "consider this program the most prestigious and challenging course you can take at Oxford.

"Oxford is not a liberal arts institution," Calaway explained, "so from the beginning of your program you focus on your subject and PPE forces you to focus on three subjects at the same time. It is pretty much the only interdisciplinary course at Oxford.

"The 'Oxford experience,'" Calaway said, "certainly has no rival and by far was the most incredible experience of my life. I grew in many ways beyond academics--personally, emotionally, and certainly socially."

Calaway focused on labor economics studies at Oxford, which sparked an interest in the gender wage gap in traditionally male-dominated professions. Her research, which is continuing at IWU as she works toward graduating with research honors in the field of labor economics, is zeroing in on looking at differences in the wage gap between men and women, including the cause of the wage gap across occupations and within occupations.

"There are a lot of competing theories" about the wage gap, according to Calaway, "and the wonderful thing about Oxford is that it exposed me to alternative theories by reading primary sources and not summaries of theories in textbooks."

Calaway's minor is in business administration with a concentration in finance.

Among Calaway's honors are a Robert C. Byrd Congressional Scholarship, IWU Alumni Scholarship, and a St. Louis Army Leadership Award. She is one of a dozen IWU students in the class of 1999 who are IWU Presidential Scholars.

As an IWU student, Calaway attended the National Business Tomorrow Conference (Chicago, 1998), Illinois State Economic Conference (1996, Western Illinois University), and the Student Activist Leadership Training meeting (1995-96, Indianapolis).

She has authored three articles for IWU's undergraduate economics journal, The Park Place Economist: "The Effects of Statutory Minimum Wages," "The Oxford Experience: A Tutorial Versus a Modular System," and "Economics Outside the Classroom." The Park Place Economist is the only undergraduate economics journal in the United States.

Calaway also is involved in organizing IWU's first student research conference on economics, slated for the spring of 1999.

Calaway has been involved in numerous leadership activities: president of the IWU Economics Society; president of IWU's Omicron Delta Epsilon chapter, the national economics honor society; articles editor of the Park Place Economist; campus president of Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship; a member of the Ambassador Club, serving as a student recruiter and campus tour guide for IWU's Admissions office; philanthropy chairman of IWU's Residence Hall Council; and Leadership '95, an award made by IWU's Dean of Students to potential campus leaders in the freshman class.

Calaway is employed as a legal intern with the McLean County State's Attorney, researching cases and working with attorneys in the felony division. She also works as a research assistant in the IWU Economics Department. Previously, Calaway worked as an administrative intern for the Madison (Ill.) County Board in Edwardsville, where she researched pending board issues and fielded constituent concerns.

Following her May, 1999, IWU graduation, Calaway and her parents--Gerald and Jane Calaway--will travel to Italy and Greece. She also plans to return to Oxford for the Pembroke Ball, a large social gala that takes place every two years and covers the entire grounds of the college.

Calaway is planning to attend law school after graduating from IWU.

The Calaway family resides at 7 Evergreen Court, Bethalto, Ill. 62010.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 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, and a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts.

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