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IWU Ranked #8 "Most Wired College" in National Networking Survey

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IWU Ranked #8 "Most Wired College" in National Networking Survey

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University was recently ranked the 8th "most wired" college in the nation according to a study published in the May 2000 edition of the magazine Yahoo! Internet Life. The ranking is IWU's first appearance in the three-year-old survey.

Also sharing IWU's ranking in the top 10 are Williams College in Massachusetts, Colgate University in New York, Oberlin College in Ohio and Smith College in Massachusetts.

The study evaluated the responses to a 52-part survey distributed on-line from approximately 1,300 academic institutions nationwide. Rankings were determined by criteria achievement in four categories--access and infrastructure, administrative services, general resources and student support.

While Yahoo! Internet Life did not include its exact methodology for determining ranking within the study, the survey was designed so that one single criterion would not make or break an institution. As a result, only institutions exhibiting a healthy balance of wired services scored well in the ranking.

The availability of computers and printers, availability of technology support, amount (in megabytes) of web and network file space accessible to students, availability of web services (on-line application, registration and course schedules) to students and percentage of residence halls and classrooms networked are some items of criteria that were included in the study.

"I was a bit surprised by the ranking," said Fred Miller, IWU director of Information Technology. "I expected us to be ranked among the top 100 wired colleges, but to be in the top ten is an honor and a tribute to the hard work of many people at Illinois Wesleyan University."

In 1995, IWU's Board of Trustees approved a long-range plan to establish the campus network and make information technology an important part of the IWU's liberal arts education. In the past year, IWU improved its web services with the development of an on-line registration system that enables students to either add or drop a class via the Internet. Other recent technology accomplishments include the addition of a new network server for student use and expanded networking of student residence halls and other campus buildings.

According to Miller, future plans for IWU's technology services include networking more classrooms, continued improvements to web services and completing networking to all residence halls, fraternities and sororities. IWU also will soon offer lifetime e-mail addresses for alumni.

Individuals and organizations involved in the success of the IWU's technology plan include: Janet McNew, provost and dean of the faculty; Roger Schnaitter, associate provost; Ken

Browning, vice president for business and finance; Mona Gardner, associate dean of the faculty; Teaching, Learning and Technology Roundtable committee; IWU Mellon Center for Faculty and Curriculum Development staff and faculty; Sheean Library staff; and IWU's Office of Information Technology staff.

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. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.