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Illinois Wesleyan University to Benefit from \$25,000 GTE Foundation Grant

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University has received a grant of \$25,000 from the GTE Foundation.

Mary Feicke, GTE's area manager for customer operations, delivered the check on behalf of the Foundation to Jo Porter, IWU's director of corporate and foundation relations, on May 3.

The grant will be used to replace 24 workstations in IWU's Internet Computer Laboratory, located in Sheean Library.

"The 24 computers in Sheean's Internet Laboratory have an average of 30 seconds between users," according to the funding proposal IWU submitted to the GTE Foundation. "This facility is also used for required technology instruction for first-year students."

These computers are used to link IWU students to millions of volumes of material available through electronic catalogs and inter-library loan systems. The Illinois Library Computer System, for example, is a network of more than 50 Illinois college and university libraries whose on-line catalog provides access to the 22-million volumes held by those academic libraries, as well as 750 public and special libraries in the state.

"Broader access through technology and inter-library loan programs," IWU's proposal pointed out, "has created greater efficiency in use of collections among both college and public libraries. Primarily, college libraries no longer have to duplicate collections at all levels."

The grant to Illinois Wesleyan is part of more than \$30 million the GTE Foundation will contribute to educational and charitable institutions this year. Total contributions to local organizations so far this year have totaled more than \$60,000.

GTE provides local telecommunications products and services in the Bloomington-Normal area.

Ranking as one of the top corporate foundations, the GTE Foundation in 1999 also provided more than \$30 million in financial support to various educational and charitable organizations in the United States and its possessions on behalf of GTE and its subsidiaries. GTE is one of the world's largest telecommunications companies and a leading provider of telecommunications services.

About GTE

With 1998 revenues of more than \$25 billion, GTE is a leading telecommunications provider with one of the industry's broadest arrays of products and services. In the United States, GTE provides local service in 28 states and wireless service in 18 states, as well as nationwide long distance, directory, and internetworking services ranging from dial-up Internet access for residential and small business consumers to Web-based applications for Fortune 500 companies. Outside the United States, the company serves customers on five continents. Additional information about GTE can be obtained at <http://www.gte.com>.

GTE's community and philanthropic programs target excellence in education, particularly math, science, technology and literacy. GTE also supports job training, delivery of health and human services, and the arts. The company's newest program is GTE Reads, a public charity designed to create public awareness, increase fundraising and support organizations dedicated to improving America's literacy levels. GTE customers can contribute to GTE Reads by checking off a box on their bills. Others can contribute through GTE Superpages.com (<http://www.superpages.com>).

About IWU

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 \$26 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 top 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.