



Summer 8-28-2000

## National Merit Scholars in IWU Freshman Class

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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### **Recommended Citation**

Aaron, Bob, "National Merit Scholars in IWU Freshman Class" (2000). *News and Events*. 874.

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Aug. 28, 2000

**CONTACT:** Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## **National Merit Scholars in IWU Freshman Class**

***Editor's Note:*** Please check the following list of National Merit Scholars in Illinois Wesleyan University's freshman class for students from your area.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--When Illinois Wesleyan University's approximately 549 freshmen begin classes today (Aug. 28), eight members of the class of 2004 will be university-sponsored National Merit Scholars.

These students--who come from Illinois, Iowa, Colorado, Minnesota, and Wisconsin--plan to major in biology, pre-engineering, pre-law, history, music theatre, and theatre.

The National Merit Scholars, who are first-year students, are:

o Casey E. Clark of Bethalto, Ill. Clark, who is a May, 2000, graduate of Civic Memorial High School in Bethalto, plans to major in music theatre. Clark participated in numerous high-school activities including membership in an All-District Choir that won All-State honors, All-State Musical Cast, president of Thespians and the Spanish Club, editor of the yearbook, and was a newspaper staffer.

o Nicholas A. Hamel of Iowa City, Iowa. Hamel, who is a 2000 graduate of City High School in Iowa City, plans to major in theatre. He was Drama Club president and MCI Essay Contest winner, as well as a participant in theatre, choir, and speech activities during high school.

o Jill A. Hochstetter of Littleton, Colo. Hochstetter, who is a May, 2000, graduate of St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, Colo., plans to major in pre-engineering. She was a Loretto Leadership Award winner and president of the Model United Nations Club, as well as a participant in the French Honor Society, Thespian Honor Society, and music theatre during high school.

o Edward T. McCormick, Jr., of Frankfort, Ill. McCormick, who is a June, 2000, graduate of Lincoln-Way Community High School in New Lenox, plans to major in history. He was involved in several activities in high school, including National Honor Society, Frankfort Youth Commission, Pi Sigma Pi, Mu Alpha Theta, and varsity swimming.

o Canzira A. Opack of Duluth, Minn. Opack, who is a June, 2000, graduate of the Marshall School in Duluth, plans to major in music. Opack participated in several high-school activities including the Minnesota All-State Choir, figure skating, student mentoring, choirs and choruses, as well as placing first in Minnesota on the National Spanish Exam.

o Rebecca L. Prantner of Madison, Wis. Prantner, who is a June, 2000, graduate of James Madison Memorial High School in Madison, plans to major in pre-law. She was involved in high-school activities, including Academic High Honors, National Spanish Honor Society, and Peer Tutoring.

o Claire E. Wegel of Savoy, Ill. Wegel, who is a June, 2000, graduate of the University of Illinois Laboratory High School in Urbana, plans to major in biology. She participated in numerous activities while in high school, including National French Contest, Recognition of Merit for volunteers, an environmental-essay contest, Irish Club, manual communications (sign language), World Affairs Organization, and dance.

o Sarah E. Wells of Decatur, Ill. Wells, a May, 2000, graduate of Meridian High School in Macon, Ill., plans to major in biology. She was a participant in many high-school activities, including the Science Olympiad, Drama Club, band, and the Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Thirteen IWU students are National Merit Scholars.

The National Merit Scholarship Corp. is an independent not-for-profit organization. It operates two annual competitions--the National Merit Scholarship Program and the National Achievement Scholarship Program. High-school students enter these competitions for recognition and scholarships by taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 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, 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.