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IWU to Participate in Online College Fairs

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- Reinforcing its national reputation as a "most wired" college, Illinois Wesleyan University will participate in a series of 10 new Online College Fair programs, set to debut Oct. 19.

From the comfort of their own home or school computer, prospective college students will be able to log onto www.OnlineCollegeFair.com to chat live with Illinois Wesleyan admission personnel, faculty and current students, as well as those from other colleges and universities.

The new online recruiting tool is offered by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) in conjunction with Interaction Software, Inc.

The Oct. 19 general interest sessions will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and from 6-8 p.m.

The interactive, online events give students and their parents a chance to chat live with school representatives, view the campuses, and participate in a "virtual Q&A." Students can also join live sessions on topics such as financial aid and scholarships, test preparation, and college counseling, moderated by admission experts.

Other interactive sessions will be held on November 1, 14, and 29; December 6; January 17; February 1 and 21; March 22; and April 18.

"This online interaction is another way for students to have access to information and to begin a dialogue with Illinois Wesleyan," said IWU admissions counselor Bob Murray. "While it's not a substitute for meeting face-to-face on a campus visit or at a college fair, it's a great, modern and practical way for students to have meaningful, personal contact with admission staff and other key campus personnel they may not otherwise be able to meet."

Illinois Wesleyan was 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 Online College Fair program builds on NACAC's successful national College Fairs and Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs, where more than 400,000 students explored their options for higher education at more than 60 locations nationwide last year.

NACAC is an Alexandria, Va.-based education association of more than 6,900 secondary school guidance counselors, college admission officers, financial aid officers, and independent counselors. Its mission is to support and advance the work of counseling and enrollment professionals as they help all students realize their full educational potential, with particular emphasis on the transition to post-secondary education.

Interaction Software, Inc. is a Boston, Mass.-based business-to-business application service provider enabling live, interactive, online events and presentations. The company's software integrates chat rooms with multimedia files including videos, still images, slide shows and web pages, enabling interactive, multimedia events.

For more information, contact the Illinois Wesleyan Admissions Office at (309) 556-3031 or (800) 332-2498, or Greg Ferguson of the NACAC at (800) 822-6285.

Schedule of Online College Fairs

Date	Times	Type
Thurs., Oct. 19	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	General Interest
Wed., Nov. 1	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	International Students
Tues., Nov. 14	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	Science, Engineering, Technology
Wed., Nov. 29	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	General Interest
Wed., Dec. 6	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	Special Needs Students
Wed., Jan. 17	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	Business Majors
Thurs., Feb. 1	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	General Interest
Wed., Feb. 21	10 a.m.-1 p.m.	International Students
Thurs., March 22	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	General Interest
Wed., April 18	11 a.m.-2 p.m., 6-8 p.m.	Students of Color