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In Celebration of IWU's 150th Anniversary Illinois Wesleyan University to Dedicate Sesquicentennial Gates

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--An historic event will take place at Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10:30 a.m. when the university's new sesquicentennial gateway, located at the corner of Park and Empire Streets, will be dedicated.

The dedication is part of IWU's 150th Anniversary Celebration and Homecoming 2000 festivities.

Participating in the event will be IWU President Minor Myers, jr., Board of Trustees President Craig C. Hart, Mayor Judy Markowitz of Bloomington and IWU Chaplain Dennis E. Groh, class of 1961.

Making remarks on behalf of IWU alumni will be Debra Burt-Frazier, class of 1975. Professor Linda J. Farquharson will make comments on behalf of the IWU faculty, and Student Senate President Matthew T. Glavin, class of 2001, will represent IWU's student body.

The four 25-foot limestone pillars stand on a wall five-to-six feet high, mark the new, curved, two-section, lighted gateway. Inscribed on one side of the gateway is Illinois Wesleyan University and on the other side is the inscription--1850 Scientia et Sapientia 2000 (IWU's motto: knowledge and wisdom).

Composed of eight segments each, the pillars were a distinctive feature of an entrance to a building at Hedding College in Abingdon, Ill. Hedding College merged with IWU in 1930. The Rev. Henry M. Bloomer, president of Hedding's Board of Trustees, preserved the pillars in the hope they would one day be used to honor his parents, Merti Harlan Bloomer and the Rev. Henry M. Bloomer, and unite the heritage of Hedding College and IWU.

The late Harlan Bloomer, the reverend's son, presented the pillars to IWU to commemorate the university's sesquicentennial. His widow, Florence (Bobbie), and his sons, Harlan and Thomas and their families will be at the dedication ceremony to see the fulfillment of the Bloomer family vision.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,025 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.