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April 13, 2001

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Professor of Environmental Science Eric Pallant to Address IWU's 12th Annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Eric Pallant, director of the Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CREED) since its inception in 1997, and associate professor, department of environmental science at Allegheny College, Meadville, Penn., will deliver the keynote address at IWU's 12th annual John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference, Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Illinois Wesleyan University Provost's office and the IWU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, a scholastic honorary society for juniors and seniors established in 1922 at IWU.

On April 21, Pallant's presentation, "There's More to Recycling Than No. 2 Plastics," will begin at 9 a.m. in the Anderson Auditorium of the Center for Natural Science, 201 E. Beecher St.

The two-day conference also will feature presentations by IWU music composition students at 7:00 p.m., in Evelyn Chapel, 1301 N. Park St., Bloomington, and a student art show and reception at 8:00 p.m. in the Merwin Art Gallery of the Joyce Eichhorn Ames School of Art building, 302 E. Graham St., Bloomington.

There will be a full day of student presentations on Saturday, in both poster and oral format. Phi Kappa Phi will award three research awards of \$100 each to selected students participating in the conference.

The conference is named for explorer-geologist John Wesley Powell, a Civil War veteran and a founder of the National Geographic Society, who joined IWU's faculty in 1865.

Pallant received his doctorate in 1987 from Cornell University (Soil Science), a master's degree in 1983 from Yale University (School of Forestry and Environmental Studies) and a bachelor's degree in 1980 from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. (Environmental Science), magna cum laude.

Pallant helped create CREED and is responsible for fundraising, budgeting and administration of nine projects, 14 directors and 247 community partners.

Pallant's research focuses on the prerequisites and techniques necessary to promote sustainability in the French Creek watershed and he is a member of the advisory committee for the French Creek Project (protection program). The program's mission is to promote grassroots efforts to reduce point and non-point source water pollution.

Often referred to as an ecological benchmark, the French Creek, watershed is surprisingly unpolluted compared to other tributaries of the Ohio River drainages. The creek's 1,200 square miles, which includes 250,000 people, is recognized by environmental experts as one of the most significant natural resources in Pennsylvania and eastern North America because of the variety of plants and animals that exist. He and his students study the ecosystem of the area.

Pallant, who has published numerous articles on education innovation, serves on several advisory boards including the Academic Advisory Board to the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Kibbutz Ketura, Israel and the President's Council on Sustainable Development and in 1999 for the Higher Education Network for Sustainability and the Environment. Pallant, who won the Three Rivers Environmental Award and the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in 1999, is an expert on land use planning and nature preservation and travels across the country visiting campuses to help establish new environmental programs.

Conference Schedule

Friday, April 20

- 7:00 p.m. Presentations by music composition students, Evelyn Chapel
- 8:00 p.m. Student art show and reception, Merwin Gallery, Ames School of Art

Saturday, April 21

- 8:30 a.m. Poster setup and continental breakfast, Science Commons
- 9:00 a.m. Keynote address, Eric Pallant, "There's More to Recycling Than Number Two Plastics"
- 10:00 a.m. Poster session A, Science Commons
- 11:00 a.m. Oral presentations (concurrent sessions)
 - Session 1, Anderson Auditorium
 - Session 2, Beckman Auditorium
 - Session 3, Center for Natural Science, Room E103
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch, Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center
- 2:00 p.m. Poster session B, Science Commons
- 3:00 p.m. Oral presentations (concurrent sessions)
 - Session 4, Anderson Auditorium
 - Session 5, Beckman Auditorium
- 4:30 p.m. Presentation of certificates and Phi Kappa Phi awards, Anderson Auditorium
- 5:00 p.m. Phi Kappa Phi annual banquet (by invitation)