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## Tari Renner IWU Political Science Professor to Receive the 2002 DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence

Sherry Wallace  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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**Contact:** Sherry Wallace, 309/556-3181

**Tari Renner**

## **IWU Political Science Professor to Receive the 2002 DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University's top teaching honor, the 2002 DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence, will go to Tari Renner, professor and chair of political science at the university. The \$1,000 teacher-scholar award was announced at IWU's annual Honors Day Convocation held today (April 18) in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall.

As part of Honors Day 2002, Renner will receive the DuPont Award, which is sponsored by DuPont Agricultural Products, Inc., of El Paso, Ill., a subsidiary of the Delaware-based chemical industry leader, E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. 2002 festivities.

IWU's Promotion and Tenure Committee selects award recipients based on teaching, scholarship and service. Carole Myscowski, professor of religion, received the 2001 DuPont teaching award.

In introducing Renner as the recipient of next year's DuPont award, IWU Provost Janet McNew quoted colleagues and students who had praised Renner for his strengths both as a teacher and scholar.

As a researcher on the topics of American politics and public policy, Renner was cited for his creative mix of several different research methods to produce "sophisticated, original work."

In their evaluations of Renner's classes, "students overwhelmingly find his enthusiasm contagious and his energy empowering," said McNew, who also cited a recent quote from Renner himself: "Perhaps my greatest strength in teaching is that I really enjoy it, and rarely consider it real work. Part of the reason is that I enjoy what I teach."

Renner, an IWU faculty member since 1994, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of South Florida and a master's degree and doctorate in government and public administration from American University.

Previously, Renner served as an assistant professor of political science (1988-92) and an associate professor of political science (1992-94) at Pittsburgh's Duquesne University, where he taught courses including state and local government, the budgetary process, urban public policy, American political parties and American government. He also taught at Washington College in Chestertown, Md., and American University in Washington, D.C.

Renner also was a management analyst at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C. from 1980-82. Renner was the director of survey research and a senior statistical analyst for the Washington, D.C.-based International City Management Association from 1986-88.

At IWU, Renner teaches courses in American politics, public policy and empirical research methods. Public opinion polling, electoral behavior, election systems and urban political structures have been the focus of Renner's research and publications. Recent works include "State Presidential Voting Patterns and the Electoral College," "The Fiscal Consequences of the Line-Item Veto in American Cities," "The Impact of Political Structures Upon Public Policies in American Counties," "City Manager Turnover: The Impact of Elections and Formal Authority," and "Minority and Gender Representation in American County Legislatures: The Impact of Election Systems."

Renner, who in 1988 was elected to a four-year term on the McLean County (Ill.) Board, is often sought after as a political commentator on current affairs. He is a member of the American Political Science Association, Midwestern Political Science Association, Phi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society), Southern Political Science Association, and the Urban Affairs Association.