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WILLIAM T. KEMPER FOUNDATION--COMMERCE BANK TRUSTEE AWARDS IWU \$100,000 GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ITS LIBRARY

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**WILLIAM T. KEMPER FOUNDATION--COMMERCE BANK TRUSTEE AWARDS
IWU \$100,000 GRANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ITS LIBRARY**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The William T. Kemper Foundation--Commerce Bank Trustee in St. Louis, awarded to Illinois Wesleyan University a \$100,000 grant toward construction of its \$26 million library.

IWU President Minor Myers, jr., said: "Illinois Wesleyan welcomes the Kemper Foundation as a partner in construction of the university's new library. The Foundation's support is a clear indication of the respect IWU has earned in the community and beyond.

The library will be dedicated October 6, 2001 during IWU's Homecoming festivities, kicking off a yearlong array of programs, marking the facility's opening.

Myers wrote to the William T. Kemper Foundation last October, pointing out: "A library is the intellectual heart of a college campus. It provides a central location for meeting, studying, collaborating, consulting, and reflection. It is a strategic building in Illinois Wesleyan University's history."

The new library will provide Illinois Wesleyan students with a strong collection of research resources and a facility that promotes a collaborative approach to scholarship. Computer resources, including all appropriate electronic science indexes, will be fully integrated into the collection from the beginning. The building will be designed to accommodate easily and efficiently the structural requirements of information technology today and in the future.

Illinois Wesleyan University recognizes the Foundation's support of higher education, particularly in the arts and humanities. Our institution has taken great strides in the last decade to provide our students with not only a remarkable liberal arts education, but also knowledge and expertise for this technological and global world.

The library structure and its program plan are designed to function as a dynamic, interactive facility where students, faculty, alumni and community members can pursue a range of research, work and read in a central location.

The new building will have 103,000 square feet and accommodate over 400,000 volumes, a major increase in the current collections is already well underway with help from generous grants from Heritage Enterprises, The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and other friends of the university. There will be seating for about 500 and a minimum of 100 computer workstations throughout the building.

Illinois Wesleyan University, founded in 1850, a private liberal arts college of 2015 undergraduates and 160 full-time faculty, is committed to providing a private comprehensive liberal arts education in the best sense of that tradition.

A strong student body, with an average ACT score of 28 and SAT composite score of 1240, has propelled Illinois Wesleyan into the top ranks of national liberal arts institutions as a college with a solid academic program. Fiscally strong, the University has had a balanced budget for the past 44 years with an endowment in excess of \$213 million.