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## Illinois Wesleyan University Student to Receive Theological Stipend

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*The Profession of Ministry*

## **Illinois Wesleyan University Student to Receive Theological Stipend**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Kevin McNicholas, sophomore sociology major at Illinois Wesleyan University will receive a \$1,500 stipend from the Fund for Theological Education, Inc. (FTE), in the third year of its Partnership for Excellence Program.

McNicholas, one of 70 Undergraduate Fellows for 2001 representing 49 academic institutions, will receive the award at FTE's Partnership for Excellence 2001 Summer Conference scheduled for June 21-24 at Vanderbilt University's Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn. At the conference, students will explore issues of vocation, theology, and ministry and Fellows also will participate in a variety of worship experiences, roundtable discussions with practicing clergy, workshops with theological educators and excursions into the city coupled with theological reflection.

Founded in 1954, FTE awards fellowships to college students who demonstrate superior academic achievement and exceptional promise for ministry, with the aims of introducing them to theological education and encouraging their vocational discernment. The group of 26 men and 44 women represent 18 denominations, diverse geographical regions, and a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The organization has provided approximately 5,000 fellowships to gifted men and women.

Supported by individuals and grants from a group of U.S. Foundations, FTE has provided approximately 5,000 fellowships and counts among its alumni many of today's most prominent theological educators. The organization's goal is to envision new and imaginative programs to encourage diversity and excellence in the churches and seminaries of North America.

According to Melissa Wiginton, director of Partnership for Excellence, "This fellowship offers a gift of relationships, time and money with which a young person might discover whether the longing of the heart and mind might be met in ministry for the churches."

McNicholas' ultimate goal in life is to enter the priesthood. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kevin McNicholas, 645 Hillcrest Ave., Elmhurst, Ill.