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Financial Aid, Admission Workshop Slated for IWU Feb. 23

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Financial Aid, Admission Workshop Slated for IWU Feb. 23

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- This month, Illinois Wesleyan University is among 50 sites where parents and their children who are high school seniors can receive free assistance in making college plans, focusing on admission and financial aid.

IWU will host a workshop on how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the atrium of the Center for Natural Sciences, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington.

Representatives from Illinois Wesleyan, Illinois State University, Lincoln College, and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission will be on hand, along with a financial aid administrator to assist with filling out forms on-line.

Those attending FAFSA workshops, including the one at IWU, should bring all completed or estimated 2001 income tax forms, as well as any other asset information in order to complete the 2002-03 FAFSA. To expedite the electronic-filing process, families should complete as much of the FAFSA as possible, in advance of the workshop.

Families attending the IWU or any other FAFSA workshop are encouraged to bring these items in addition to completed or estimated 2001 tax information:

- Student driver's license and Social Security card,
- Records of untaxed income (welfare, Social Security, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or veteran benefits);
- Current bank statements;
- Current mortgage information for properties other than the family's principal residence;
- Records of businesses, farm (if not the family's principal place of residence) and assets (stocks, bonds, and other investments).

Workshop participants are encouraged to bring hand-held calculators.

Families attending these workshops will receive information on many hot topics, including: electronic filing of the FAFSA; changes to the 2002-03 FAFSA; early awareness issues such as academic preparation and planning for college costs; College Illinois!, the state's prepaid tuition program; and general information about federal tax credits and benefits for higher education. Students also will be able to gather information on financial-aid sources, such as grants, scholarships, federal work-study funds, and educational loans.

For the 13th consecutive year in Illinois, February has been earmarked as Financial Aid/Admission Awareness Month (FAAM), a collaborative effort by the Illinois Association for

College Admissions Counseling, the Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and 20 lending institutions.