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Student Takes Seat on County Board

April 8, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University senior Scott Black was recently appointed to the McLean County Board, placing him in the rare position of being a college student and an elected official.

“I’ve always been passionate for serving the community and working with local issues,” said the political science major and history minor from Mt. Prospect, Ill. “After being approached by several community leaders asking me to consider running, I came to the conclusion that the County Board would be a perfect way for me to incorporate my passions.”

Black takes over the last year of the term held by Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Political Science Tari Renner, who resigned his seat after he moved from the county’s District 8. Black decided to apply for the open position that covers about 15,000 people on the northwest side of Bloomington. Unopposed for the seat, he was appointed in March.

With his appointment, Black will serve on the county Property Committee and Transportation Committee. He said he looks at the chance to serve as an incredible opportunity. “By working together, we can raise the standard of living for all the people in the community,” he said. “Government has the ability to bring people together and solve the problems that folks face on a daily basis.”

During his time on campus, Black has taken on many leadership roles. He served as president of the College Democrats for two years, participated in the Model Illinois Government Moot Court Simulation and served on the IWU Debate Committee. Black played the part of President Barack Obama in a mock debate held on campus last year. He also moderated two IWU Community Forums. “IWU has taught me that new solutions can solve old problems,” he said. “The classes I’ve taken at IWU taught me that there are many different ways to solve challenges, but to see the solutions; you have to think outside the box.” He also noted guidance given him by Illinois Wesleyan professors. “They encouraged me to do internships that sparked my passion for local government and the political process. Their support throughout my four years has been invaluable.”

Black said after graduation in May, he wants to settle in the Bloomington-Normal community. He hopes to maintain his County Board seat, and is planning to enter the election this November. If elected, he would serve a two-year term.

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