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IWU Lends Talent to Lincoln Statue Dedication

October 11, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. –The Illinois Wesleyan University Collegiate Choir will perform at the dedication of a statue commemorating Abraham Lincoln's ties to Bloomington-Normal. The event will be held at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts (600 N. East St., Bloomington) on Saturday, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m.

Michael Burlingame, Lincoln scholar and author of *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, will give the keynote address at the dedication. This event is free and open to the public.

The IWU Collegiate Choir, directed by Professor of Music J. Scott Ferguson, will perform 19th century protest songs. IWU President Richard F. Wilson will read excerpts from Lincoln's works.

The statue, commissioned by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County, features a life-size depiction of Lincoln and his close advisors Jesse Fell and Judge David Davis.

Bloomington sculptor Andrew Jumonville created the work, titled "Convergence of Purpose." The sculpture will be placed in the recently renamed Lincoln Park, in front of the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts.

For additional information on the McLean County Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, visit their website at www.mclincoln.org.

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