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Grace Named Lincoln Laureate

November 11, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Kari Grace, a senior from Winnetka, Ill., has been selected as Illinois Wesleyan University's recipient of the 2010 Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate Award. The award recognizes outstanding academic achievement and extracurricular activities among college seniors.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, Grace and fellow student laureates were honored in a ceremony at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield, Ill. Accompanied by Chair and Professor of Hispanic Studies Carolyn Nadeau, Grace received a Student Laureate Medallion, along with an honorarium check and certificate of achievement.

Chosen from a pool of qualified Illinois Wesleyan seniors, Grace is a sociology and Hispanic studies double major with a minor in environmental studies. A member of Kappa Delta, she is currently the sorority's leadership chair. In her four years at IWU, she has been a member of the Sierra Student Coalition and has helped the group organize events on campus.

Since her sophomore year, Grace has played an active role in IWU's GREENetwork and is currently a co-chair. She is also president of Sigma Delta Pi, the Hispanic Honor Society on campus, as well as a member of the following: Phi Beta Kappa, the Liberal Arts Honor Society; Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society; Phi Eta Sigma, the First Year Honor Society; Gamma Sigma Alpha, the national Academic Greek Honor Society and Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for international Scholars.

"I feel very special being recognized for my achievements at IWU, especially when there are so many wonderful students here that have been just as successful," said Grace.

Additionally, Grace is a Hispanic studies tutor at the Language Resource Center. In previous years, she has helped teach English classes for Latino community members in Bloomington-Normal at Western Avenue Community Center.

"The Department of Hispanic Studies is incredibly proud of Kari's achievement. During her four years she has consistently shown outstanding academic work in the classroom and is an excellent tutor in the Language Resource Center," said Nadeau.

The Lincoln Academy of Illinois, founded in 1965, honors distinguished citizens of Illinois for their contributions to society. For each of the past 36 years, the academy has recognized one accomplished student from each four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois.

For additional information, visit the Lincoln Academy of Illinois website at www.thelincolnacademyofillinois.org.

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