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## Summer Enrichment Program Welcomes New Cohort

March 24, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Regardless of a student's major or future career goals, internships are an increasingly important part of the college experience. According to the Illinois Wesleyan Hart Career Center's website, internships offer opportunities to make one's education "real" by providing practical work experience.

This summer, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs will offer 12 Illinois Wesleyan students the valuable opportunity of a local, paid internship that will help them gain community and academic experience. This opportunity is made possible by the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which has been held at Illinois Wesleyan for more than 20 years. The program will allow students to stay on campus and participate in a variety of activities that aim to promote their academic, professional and personal growth while improving their team-building and leadership skills.

The 10-week program is open to current Multiracial, African-American, Latino-Hispanic, Asian-American and Native American (MALANA) and international students. This year's theme, "Speak Up, Speak Out," will focus on activism.

In addition to the internship, the selected students will participate in volunteer projects, cultural trips, formal training workshops and a group project, which Eileen Galvez, assistant director of multicultural student affairs, said is designed to break down and explore the dynamics of a group. The students will also read and discuss *Huey: Spirit of the Panther* by David Hillard. Participants who successfully complete the program will also be awarded a scholarship.

Matthew Damschroder, assistant dean of students, Colin Stewart, director for student activities and leadership programs, Laurie Diekhoff, assistant director of the Hart Career Center, and Galvez assessed numerous candidates before determining who would qualify for the program.

"This program allows for a community to be built and it enables our students to know that Wesleyan supports them and we are invested in their success," said Galvez.

The group includes:

### **First-Years:**

- Brigitta Jakob, Palembang, Indonesia, economics major
- Corin Sengsay, Normal, psychology major
- Sana Shafiuddin, Streamwood, Ill., nursing major

### **Sophomores:**

- Cristina Cervantes, Schiller Park, Ill., undecided
- Nitesh Kumar, Mundelein, Ill., biology and chemistry double major
- Kimberly Mensah, Bolingbrook, Ill., biology major
- Thalia Novoa, Marquette Heights, Ill., Hispanic studies major
- Drake Sorensen, Roanoke, Ill., business administration major
- Monica Villegas, Cali, Colombia, business administration and psychology double major

**Juniors:**

- Michelle Dominguez, Chicago, psychology major
- Ralph Pineda, Gurnee, Ill., business administration major
- Ayethaw Tun, Spring Valley, Ill., psychology major

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