



Spring 4-25-2016

Illinois Wesleyan to Launch New Recruitment Initiative in New Orleans

Kim Hill
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

Recommended Citation

Hill, Kim, "Illinois Wesleyan to Launch New Recruitment Initiative in New Orleans" (2016).
News and Events. 2818.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/2818>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Illinois Wesleyan to Launch New Recruitment Initiative in New Orleans

April 25, 2016

Illinois Wesleyan University is partnering with [The Posse Foundation](#), a national college access and leadership development program, to recruit high-achieving high school students from the New Orleans area. The program will recruit 10 students annually, beginning in 2017. Each Posse Scholar will receive a full-tuition leadership scholarship made possible, in part, by support from the [Tortora Sillcox Family Foundation](#).

"Increasing access, diversity and our geographic reach are key goals that this new partnership with The Posse Foundation will help us to accomplish," said President Eric R. Jensen. "We'll be joining more than 55 top-tier colleges and universities—schools like Carleton, Dartmouth, Middlebury, Oberlin, and Saint Olaf—who partner with Posse. Posse's unique selection process and pre-collegiate training program yield student leaders who are very successful in college and after they graduate. I'm looking forward to the Posse Plus retreats, in which campus issues identified by the Posse Scholars are discussed by a cross-section of the campus community."

Founded in 1989, Posse identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes. Posse extends to these students the opportunity to pursue personal and academic excellence by placing them in supportive, multicultural teams—Posses—of 10 students. Posse partner colleges and universities award Posse Scholars four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships.

The Illinois Wesleyan-Posse partnership is being supported financially by a \$375,000 five-year grant from the Tortora Sillcox Family Foundation, which has as one of its principal missions overcoming socioeconomic barriers that limit college opportunities for public high school graduates. This financial support will be used to support leadership scholarships and other program needs.

"Our goal is to connect outstanding students who have the drive, passion and intelligence to attend the best schools in the country and become our next generation of leaders," said Deborah Bial, president and founder of The Posse Foundation. "We're thrilled to have the support of President Jensen and excited to have a fine liberal arts institution like Illinois Wesleyan University join us in this mission. We feel IWU offers top-tier academics, and the kind of welcoming and supportive community in which Posse scholars will thrive."

The Posse Foundation and Illinois Wesleyan's admissions team will work together to identify and recruit Posse Scholars from New Orleans-area schools each year, with the first cohort coming to the IWU campus in fall 2017. In addition to Posse Leadership Scholarships, the students will have faculty mentors and other support services. Posse Foundation scholars achieve high persistence and graduation rates, typically in the 90 percent range.



A cohort of Posse Scholars from New Orleans.