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Taylor '18 Honored as 2017 Student Laureate

Nov. 13, 2017

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan University biology major Brock Taylor '18 of Mattoon, Illinois, has been named a 2017 Student Laureate by The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

The Lincoln Academy's Student Laureate Awards are presented for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities to seniors from each of the state's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from the community colleges in Illinois.

Each student recipient receives a Student Laureate medallion and a \$1,000 check from The Lincoln Academy at the Student Laureate Convocation, which took place Nov. 11 at the Old State Capitol State Historic Site in Springfield, Illinois.

"I feel very honored to receive the award and am so appreciative of all of the opportunities that Illinois Wesleyan has provided for me," Taylor said. "I have been able to be involved in a diverse amount of activities as well as feel a part of the Bloomington-Normal community. There is no doubt that I attended the perfect university for my undergraduate education."

Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Biology William Jaeckle accompanied Taylor to the awards convocation.

"Dr. Jaeckle is such a wonderful advisor, instructor, and mentor who has helped me navigate the journey to become a physician," Taylor said. "His support and encouragement throughout the semesters, as well as when I was abroad last summer in the Philippines, have been invaluable to me during my time at Illinois Wesleyan."

Taylor, who is minoring in psychology, is on the pre-med track. He is a Jennings Music Scholar and a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the Tri-Beta National Biological Honor Society. During a 2016 May Term Travel Course, Taylor participated in the Ecology Research Program in Costa Rica. In 2017, he was selected to participate in the Freeman Asia Internship Program, where Taylor completed an internship at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

He is a General Chemistry Laboratory Teaching Assistant, volunteers at the McLean County Medical Society Cadaver Lab, and is active in the Death Resurrection Life (DRL) Campus Ministry. Taylor worked with the Ambassador Club as a host and tour guide for two years, and he served in the Illinois Wesleyan Student Senate during his first three years on campus.

Taylor has also volunteered at the Cancer Center and Pediatric Unit at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon.



Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Biology William Jaeckle joined 2017 Student Laureate Brock Taylor '18 at the Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Convocation.

By John Tworck