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IWU to Honor Nursing Alumna

September 29, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.- Illinois Wesleyan University will honor Jean L. Heideman, class of '82, as this year's Distinguished Alumna for Nursing Excellence on Saturday, Oct. 7, at the School of Nursing Homecoming Brunch, held from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Center for Natural Science Learning and Research Commons, 201 E. Beecher St.

The event is free and open to the public.

Heideman will give a speech immediately following the brunch in room C102 of the same building.

The Distinguished Alumna for Nursing Excellence award is given each year during [Homecoming](#) to one alumna who has demonstrated outstanding excellence in the field of nursing.

Heideman is being recognized for her extensive work in the field of nursing, and in particular, her involvement with the Rush Day School in Chicago, a therapeutic school for emotionally disturbed children and a child, adolescent and family behavioral health outpatient clinic.

Heideman started her work at the Rush Day School in 1986 as a Nursing Coordinator, and since has served as the school's Clinical Coordinator, Program Director, and is presently the Director of Child Psychiatry Outpatient Services. In her time at the school, Heideman developed a satellite outpatient clinic in Oak Brook, Ill. from the "ground up," and helped expand the program to more participants. The Rush Day School is a part of Rush University Medical Center. Rush is the recipient of the Magnet Nursing Services Recognition Program for Excellence in Nursing, the highest award a hospital can receive for outstanding achievement in nursing services, and was named as one of "America's Best Hospitals" in a 2006 U.S. News & World Report.

In addition to her involvement at the school, Heideman also works out of a private practice in Chicago and Skokie, Ill. that concerns individual, group and family psychotherapy. She has worked as a nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and Riveredge Hospital in Forest Park, Ill., as well as a consultant in various places around the Chicago area. Her research has been featured in numerous publications, and she has presented her work in locations throughout the Chicago area and California.

Heideman graduated from IWU with a degree in nursing and went on to receive her master's in Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing from the University of Illinois and her master's in public policy from the University of Chicago with a certificate in Health Administration and Policy. She is a member of the Illinois Society of Advanced Practice Nurses and the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses. In 1996, Heideman was awarded the Mary Beth O'Holleran Nurse Mentorship Award, and in 2001, she was named Manager of the Quarter in the Department of Psychiatry.

For additional information, contact the IWU School of Nursing at (309) 556-3051.

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