



Fall 9-3-2020

Illinois Wesleyan New-Student Enrollment Up 9%

John Twork
Illinois Wesleyan University

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

Recommended Citation

Twork, John, "Illinois Wesleyan New-Student Enrollment Up 9%" (2020). *News and Events*. 4059.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/4059>

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 The Ames Library at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Illinois Wesleyan New-Student Enrollment Up 9%

Sept. 3, 2020

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Illinois Wesleyan welcomed **487** new students to the University this fall, a **9%** increase in new-student enrollment. Total enrollment held steady at **1,636**. Official enrollment figures were computed after the 15th day of classes.

“As many universities across the country face significant enrollment declines amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are especially pleased to be breaking this trend with a larger-than expected group of diverse, accomplished students,” President S. Georgia Nugent said. “The strength of this class underscores the value of an Illinois Wesleyan educational experience and the personal attention our faculty and staff provide each student — whether they opted to pursue their courses in person, online, or with hybrid delivery this fall.”

The incoming class includes **131** students — **27%** of the total class — who self-identify as students of color, representing the third-most diverse class of students in University history.

Students from **six** countries, **30** states and Washington, D.C. make up the incoming class. Locally, a record-high total of **58** new students from McLean County enrolled this fall, a **38%** increase over last year’s McLean County new-student total.

“The Illinois Wesleyan Associates continue to invest deeply in the future of local students through support of the [McLean County Scholarship Guarantee](#),” Nugent said. “Over the past three years, the number of talented McLean County students who have chosen to pursue their undergraduate degree locally at Illinois Wesleyan has increased significantly, thanks in large part to the Associates’ steadfast commitment to the success of our community and our students.”

Transfer numbers also increased this fall, with **42** new transfer students — a **35%** increase — including **nine** from Heartland Community College. Academic quality held consistent, with an average class GPA of **3.8**. The incoming class consists of **62** first-generation students and **64** with an Illinois Wesleyan family legacy.

“We’re happy that students and families are recognizing that Illinois Wesleyan offers a distinctive education, combining a broad liberal arts curriculum with strong pre-professional programs — a uniquely valuable offering in our rapidly changing environment,” Nugent said. “We also believe that a number of students opted to defer their enrollments due to the pandemic, and we look forward to having those students join us this spring or next fall.”

Illinois Wesleyan continues to recruit *and retain* high-caliber students, with a 90% average retention rate — 12% above the national retention rate — according to [College Scorecard](#) data.



Illinois Wesleyan welcomed 487 new students to the University this fall, a 9% increase in new-student enrollment.

By John Twork