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Baker '04 Named Central Illinois Woman of the Year

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Baker '04 Named Central Illinois Woman of the Year

Oct. 23, 2020

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — [*Central Illinois Business Magazine*](#) named Illinois Wesleyan University alumna Gianina Baker '04 its Woman of the Year from the publication's "Forty Under 40" class.

Baker is the associate director at the [National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment](#) (NILOA), a resource-research institute founded to discover, document, and disseminate effective assessment of student learning practices at colleges and universities. She is also vice president of the Champaign Community Unit School District 4 school board and recently helped pass a resolution that declares racism a public health crisis, ensuring that the necessary attention and resources will be directed to this issue.



Gianina Baker '04

Baker graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 2004 with a degree in psychology, before earning a master's degree in human development counseling from Saint Louis University and a Ph.D. in education policy, organization & leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

One of the [most decorated student-athletes in Illinois Wesleyan history](#), Baker was an eight-time All-American, and a member of the 2004 Indoor National Champion 4x400 meter relay team. Baker was also president of the Black Student Union; co-President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee; resident advisor; and assisted/led/hosted a variety of initiatives on the IWU campus.

Baker remains involved with Illinois Wesleyan as a member of the [Council for Women](#). She will be among the presenters for a Titan Talks webinar on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. titled: "[Leaders in Education - Rising to the Challenges of COVID-19](#)."

Central Illinois Business Magazine's "Forty Under 40" recognizes the professional achievements and community involvement of young leaders in Central Illinois.

By Rachel McCarthy '21