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## Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Organization at Illinois Wesleyan

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## **Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Organization at Illinois Wesleyan**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – The Illinois Wesleyan University Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Organization is a new student interest group that is quickly gaining significant attention from both the Bloomington-Normal and IWU communities.

Paul Czerwinski, a senior business major from Niles, Ill., began the group this fall after realizing that many other university campuses offer student-led sexual awareness organizations.

One aim of the organization is to make students aware of the University's established policies and the procedures for reporting and dealing with such offenses.

"I want students on our campus to be able to recognize what sexual assault is, and if it occurs, what they can do to stop it," said Czerwinski. His goals for the organization include educating students on the topic and helping the University to facilitate a safe campus environment. Czerwinski would like the group to work with the Bloomington-Normal community and students at other campuses as well, to raise awareness about sexual assault prevention. In the near future, the group plans to implement more informational sessions, a self-defense program, and awareness activities on campus.

In September, Czerwinski, other students, and a counselor from IWU's Counseling and Consultation Service, presented informational sessions in first-year residence halls to educate new students, encourage them to feel comfortable in their surroundings, and respond to their questions and concerns.

"I think the methods we have used thus far have greatly impacted students in the right way. Talking is a great way to educate more and more people and bring the issue to the conscious level," said Czerwinski.

By actively involving more students, Czerwinski hopes that the group will become the largest student-run organization on campus. "I think that is quite possible due to the amount of interest," said Czerwinski.

For more information regarding the organization, contact Paul Czerwinski at paulczerwinski@hotmail.com.