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## Illinois Wesleyan Trustee Gary Egbers Dies in Private Plane Crash

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### *Illinois Wesleyan Trustee Gary Egbers Dies in Private Plane Crash*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Gary Egbers, a 1972 graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and a member of the university's Board of Trustees, was among five people who died early Monday in the crash of a private plane near Wheeling, W.Va.

Egbers was the founder and president of Commercial Packaging, Inc., of Normal. Two of the other occupants were also employees of the company.

"Everyone connected with the university is shocked and saddened by this tragic news about our alumnus and trustee, Gary Egbers," said Illinois Wesleyan President Richard F. Wilson. "He was extraordinarily loyal and dedicated to his alma mater. In so many ways, he was an ideal trustee — active and engaged in the work of the institution and obviously proud to be serving his university."

Craig Hart, chairman of the Illinois Wesleyan Board of Trustees, also cited Egbers' loyalty to his alma mater.

"Gary played a key role in helping the university move forward," said Hart. "He was someone to whom we always looked for leadership."

Egbers received his bachelor's degree in political science in 1972. He was named to the Board of Trustees in 1994 and was appointed a member of the Board's Executive Committee and chair of the Development Committee in 1999. In addition, Egbers served from 1999 to 2002 as president of the Illinois Wesleyan Associates, which comprises a group of area business and professional leaders committed to supporting the university through scholarships, internships, and job opportunities for graduates.

When he was named to head the Illinois Wesleyan Associates, Egbers described his Illinois Wesleyan education as being like a mutual fund, observing that "its value gets better over time; it's an incredible investment. I think the liberal arts education available at Illinois Wesleyan helps provide students with a broad cultural base. Education also is the light at the end of the tunnel for lots of people."