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IWU Commencement 2000 to Feature Redesigned Diplomas

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--During Illinois Wesleyan University's commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 7, the IWU Class of 2000 will receive redesigned diplomas recognizing the start of IWU's 150th anniversary of the university's founding.

"The redesigned diplomas are quite appropriate for the Class of 2000," said Carl Teichman, executive assistant to IWU President Minor Myers, jr. "The diplomas make IWU more distinctive and also serve as a recognition of the start of IWU's sesquicentennial."

According to Teichman, the new diplomas are quite different from those presented to past IWU graduates. Drawing greatly from the style of the 1868 IWU diploma, the redesigned documents are larger and feature a green ribbon with the distinctive IWU seal on the left side. All signatures on the diplomas are hand signed, and graduates will receive the document in a green presentation tube bearing IWU's seal.

The project to redesign IWU's diploma was a cooperative effort among Teichman, President Myers and IWU Registrar Jack Fields.

IWU will award bachelor's degrees to about 320 female and 215 male students at Commencement 2000. It's estimated that about 21 students will graduate summa cum laude (3.90 grade-point average on a 4.0 scale), 67 students will graduate magna cum laude (3.70 grade-point average or higher), and 80 will graduate cum laude (3.50 grade-point average or higher).

The graduating class includes approximately 473 students from Illinois and students from 22 other states, as well as an estimated 11 students from six nations.

Graduating seniors represent 34 fields of study, the top six of which, in terms of the number of graduates, are expected to be in business administration, biology, English, psychology, political science and nursing.

IWU's graduation ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. (the processional of graduates and faculty begins at 12:45 p.m.) on the Eckley Quadrangle unless inclement weather forces the event inside the Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson, Bloomington.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$26 million library and \$6 million student center. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.