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Illinois Wesleyan University Sophomore Receives Golden Apple Scholarship

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan sophomore mathematics major Kristine Lehan of Dekalb, Ill., was selected to receive a Golden Apple Pathway Scholarship.

Created in 1988 by the award-winning teachers of the Golden Apple Foundation, The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program recruits talented high school graduates and a limited number of college sophomores, through the supplemental Pathway Program, who have the promise for successful careers as teachers in service to children in high-need schools throughout Illinois. The Golden Apple foundation defines a school of need as either designated with Chapter I Status by the U.S. Department of Education or having scores on state PSAE below 160 or ISAT tests below 165.

All Golden Apple Scholars must attend one of the 48 Illinois colleges and universities that participate in the program. The scholars receive a \$5,000 scholarship loan per year for four years to the student's undergraduate institution. Sophomores chosen through the Pathway Program application process receive the scholarship loan for two years and have the opportunity to participate in internships and seminars through the program's Summer Institute each year, for a total of \$14,000 in financial assistance.

Award winners are obligated to earn a bachelor's degree at one of the 48 participating Illinois colleges and universities, obtain Illinois Initial Teacher Certification, teach for five years in an Illinois school of need after graduation, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 and participate in Summer Institute programs.

Lehan, a graduate of DeKalb High School, has always wanted to be a teacher.

"This scholarship means so much to me because I feel as though all of my hard work and discipline has finally paid off," she said. "Golden Apple Foundation will change my life and my future as a teacher, making me the best teacher I could possibly be."

Lehan joins other Golden Apple Scholars at Illinois Wesleyan, including sophomore music education major Matt Granger of Park Ridge, Ill. and junior English literature major Laura Minerva of Des Plaines, Ill.