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## For Immediate Release

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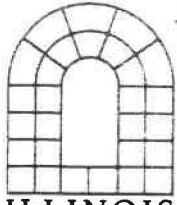
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--A \$110,000 U.S. Education Department grant will help launch three new international studies programs, expand the teaching of Russian, and establish a new Japanese language program at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Under the two-year grant, IWU will add three new minors to its International Studies Program: Asian Studies, Development Studies, and Russo-Soviet and Eastern European Studies.

"The addition of these minors and the additional language emphasis in our curriculum will enable us to fulfill the university's mission to globalize," said Ellen S. Hurwitz, IWU's provost and dean of the faculty.

Nineteen IWU faculty will receive stipends under the wide-ranging grant to develop or revise more than 30 courses.

The grant will support professional development programs for faculty and attendance at professional conferences; purchase of teaching materials, including books, films, and journals; workshops for students and faculty; public lectures by experts in various fields; and international studies seminars and symposia.

To support an expanded International Studies Program, IWU has hired two new faculty members in international and development economics and Asian religions. The university will hire new faculty to teach Russian and Japanese during the next five years. IWU has committed \$2.3 million to the development of the Japanese language program.

The grant is administered by George K. Kieh, Jr., an assistant professor of political science and director of the International Studies Program. He will be assisted by Fred Hoyt, associate professor of business and coordinator of the Asian Studies Team; Christopher Prendergast, associate professor of sociology and coordinator of the Development Studies Team; and Robert Leh, associate professor of political science and coordinator of the Russo-Soviet and Eastern European Studies Team.

"The grant is significant for several reasons," Kieh said. "First, it will enable IWU to develop several areas of concentration and broaden its international studies program. Second, the grant gives IWU the opportunity to expand the program by developing new courses and revising existing ones. Third, the grant gives IWU faculty the opportunity to do some retooling in several areas of interest. And, fourth, the grant places IWU in the position to respond to growing student demand for an international studies major as part of the university's curriculum."

Among new courses to be developed or existing courses to be revised under the federal grant in 1992-94 are:

- *Asian Studies*--Business in the Pacific Rim, Diplomacy and Business in China, Politics of China, Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Asian Religions, Hindu-Christian Dialogue, and Japanese Language: Introductory Courses.

- *Development Studies*--Population and Environment, International Health, Modern Arabic Writing, History of Latin America and the Caribbean, Development Economics, Post-Colonial Literary Theory, and International Political Economy.

- *Russian Studies*--Twentieth Century Russian, Politics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Comparative Education: Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Religion in Russia, a travel course in education to Eastern Europe, Advanced Conversation (Russian language), and Culture and Civilization.

"Asia, the Third World, and the former Soviet Union are major focuses of IWU's new initiatives in international studies because of the historic changes sweeping these regions," explained Jo Porter, IWU's associate director of development/corporate and foundation gifts.

"In Asia," Porter pointed out, "Japan and the 'Asian Tigers' of South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan have become economic powerhouses in the global marketplace. Many of the world's most challenging problems--poverty, disease, and illiteracy--are found in the developing nations of Asia and Africa, where three-fourths of the world's population lives. And, the collapse of communism in Moscow and throughout Eastern Europe has changed--almost overnight--the way we must look at international politics, economics, and military affairs. For all of these reasons--and many more--IWU is committed to crafting an international studies program which will

prepare our graduates for the challenges they are likely to face in the years ahead."

IWU's International Studies Program, established in 1985, is an interdisciplinary program with 46 faculty associates representing various campus schools and departments. The program has a half-dozen area studies and functional area teams: Asian Studies, Development Studies, Diplomatic Studies, Latin American Studies, Russo-Soviet and Eastern European Studies, Latin American Studies, and Western European Studies.

During the 1990-91 school year, 921 IWU students were enrolled in international studies-related courses and 1,043 students were taking foreign languages. IWU enrolls about 1,700 students.

The International Studies Program administers a public lecture series, a roundtable on global issues, and a research forum, and produces two publications.

IWU students who minor in an international studies concentration are encouraged to experience foreign cultures by studying in various nations, including France, Germany, Japan, Italy, and the former Soviet Union. Exchange agreements for faculty and students have been established or are on the drawing board with Brazil's Universidade Fluminense, Bayero University in Nigeria, and the Technos International Academy of Japan.

IWU also has established the International House (Kemp Hall) as a student living and learning residence with an international focus. Next fall, IWU will enroll 101 international students from 47 nations.

Illinois Wesleyan University, founded in 1850, is a liberal arts campus. IWU has been ranked No. 1 among Midwest regional colleges and universities for three straight years by *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual "America's Best Colleges" edition.