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Illinois Wesleyan University

NEWS RELEASE

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IWU Names New Provost, Dean of Faculty

McNew file

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Janet McNew, a professor of English at St. John's University in Minnesota and a former aide to the president of the University of Virginia, today was named Illinois Wesleyan University's new provost and dean of faculty.

In announcing the appointment, IWU President Minor Myers, jr., said, "Janet McNew brings many great strengths to Illinois Wesleyan. She is a top-notch scholar and a talented administrator with a national and international perspective. She has broad experience working with faculty--especially chairing for seven years a joint English Department linking St. John's University and the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota. She is deeply committed to the liberal arts and to undergraduate education--two of IWU's key missions. All of us in the Wesleyan community welcome her and look forward to working with her."

McNew's appointment, effective Aug. 1, culminates a six-month national search process that attracted about 110 candidates.

McNew succeeds Ellen Hurwitz, who left IWU last year to assume the presidency of Albright College in Pennsylvania. Since Hurwitz' departure, Roger Schnaitter, associate dean of academic affairs, has served as acting provost, and Pamela Muirhead, associate professor of English, has served as acting dean of faculty.

"IWU offers a great professional opportunity to someone like me, who is interested in smaller colleges," McNew said. "Campuses like IWU are student centered and offer quality undergraduate education programs."

Among McNew's interests are international education and the incorporation of interdisciplinary and multi-cultural elements into curricula.

McNew, a faculty member at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., since 1979, has taught a wide range of English courses, including 18th-and 19th-century British literature, literature and ethics, introduction to poetry, women and poetry, and short fiction of the seventies. Her administrative experience at St. John's includes directing the British Studies Program in London; heading the Freshman Colloquium Program; leading the Irish Studies Program in Galway; and chairing the Joint St. John's University/College of Saint Benedict Department of English for seven years.

From 1975-79, she was a faculty member at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where she taught freshman, intermediate, and advanced composition, masterpieces of English literature, and studies in poetry. Her administrative experience at UVA included directing the Interlibrary Loan Program, serving as assisting director of writing programs, and working as an administrative fellow in

the office of President John Casteen, a nationally recognized educational leader, who has served as Virginia's secretary of education and president of the University of Connecticut.

In working with Casteen, McNew was involved in national, regional, and state policy issues, including higher education finance, student financial aid, and strategic planning. She also worked with the faculty senate, university donors, and the State Council of Higher Education. McNew spearheaded a major report on women and African-Americans at UVA, which established a clear data comparison between the Charlottesville campus and other major research universities. She also initiated a fellowship program at UVA for women and minority faculty, providing a professional experience akin to hers as an administrative fellow.

McNew attended the University of Georgia from 1969-71 and earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, which she attended in 1971-73, winning Phi Beta Kappa honors. She earned a master of arts degree and a doctorate from the University of Virginia.

She is the author of about 20 papers and publications on topics, ranging from media coverage of academic controversies, the letters of the English author Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), and women in higher education history to educating the workforce for the 21st century, contemporary disputes about core curricula, and the Scottish poet Robert Burns (1759-1796).

McNew has won several awards and honors, including a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar fellowship at the University of Washington, dealing with the "Origins of Romanticism", a faculty award for her advising of students at St. John's, and a curriculum planning and development grant.

She is a member of several national and regional professional organizations, including the Modern Language Association, Midwest Modern Language Association, Association of Departments of English, Women's Caucus of the Modern Language Association, and the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

McNew's appointment was made on the unanimous recommendation of an eight-member Search Committee composed of professors elected by the faculty and representatives of the student body and the administration. The committee was chaired by Tom Griffiths, professor of biology. IWU President Myers, who was responsible for the final selection of the provost and dean of faculty, concurred in the committee's recommendation.

Of the 110 candidates for the position, three were selected for in-depth interviews on campus, based on a thorough review and evaluation by the Search Committee. The interviews included sessions that included large group meetings with faculty and administrators, as well as smaller sessions with elected faculty committees, division and school directors, department and administrative heads, and students.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls more than 1,800 students in its College of Liberal Arts, Schools of Music, Art, and Drama, and a School of Nursing. In 1992, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Illinois Wesleyan No. 1 in the Midwest among regional colleges and universities for the fourth consecutive year.