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Internet Economics

IWU Economics Goes On-Line With \$10,000 Grant

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Illinois Wesleyan University has received a grant for \$10,000 from the Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation to develop the only completely on-line undergraduate economics journal in the world.

The grant provides for journal start-up costs, purchasing needed computer hardware and paying a student assistantship position for the first two years of the program.

The new on-line journal, University Avenue Undergraduate Journal of Economics, is the brain child of IWU and Illinois State University professors and students.

IWU Economics Professor Mike Seeborg explains the partnership as "combining our experience and know how of the Park Place Economist with their [ISU's] internet expertise."

The program will create a platform for undergraduates to be published on-line. Seeborg said, "The complete process will be on-line, soliciting submissions, editing, and posting of final articles all through the web site and e-mail. The on-line key is speed. This will enable the entire process to move much faster."

IWU has produced a printed undergraduate journal, The Park Place Economist, for the past five years. It is one of only three in the world and is the model for the on-line journal.

The Park Place Economist is produced by a student editorial board with minimal faculty involvement. Students learn valuable leadership and communication skills, as well as gaining experience in writing, editing, setting goals, and working with technology.

The on-line journal's goals are much the same as The Park Place Economist, but with the expanded scope of providing a source for publishing undergraduate economic papers written by students worldwide.

Currently a mock journal is on-line at:
http://138.87.168.39/Econ_Web_Pages/EconJournal/Current_Issue.html

(more)

Economics On-Line/2

It consists of two articles, which appeared in the last edition of The Park Place Economist.

The mock edition will be replaced this fall with the first official publication. The site will be updated as each new article is accepted until a set date when the edition will be closed. Topics will range from economic theory to empirical studies to policy studies. Each issue will contain a rotating topic with several articles related to that topic.

There are plans to use the correspondence capabilities of the web extensively. Not only will submissions and revisions be completed over the internet but discussions about articles and questions directed to the authors will be conducted through the site. According to Seeborg, "This will allow students all over the world to challenge and learn from one another."

The program's next challenge is to develop a system of contacts to encourage and receive submissions. Currently, the program has contacts at approximately 70 public and private universities and colleges worldwide. The programs' faculty advisors would like to see a network of universities through senior "capstone" courses, which already require major research projects by their students. They feel they can use already established curriculum to increase submissions.

The Kazanjian Foundation of Oneonta, N.Y. has expressed interest in increasing its role by providing a \$1,000 award for the best article of each year. This added incentive is aimed at spurring increased interest and submissions to the journal.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and its Schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 1995. The \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities, business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next fall, as well as a \$6.5 million residence hall, accommodating about 118 students. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Illinois Wesleyan a "Baccalaureate I" institution, a classification that places it among the 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges.