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*(Locals, Cent. Ill., Chicago, Business, Minority, Education)
Philanthropy)*

State Farm Insurance

Awards \$918,340 Grant to Illinois Wesleyan For Minority Enrichment and Scholarship Programs

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--The State Farm Insurance Companies Foundation has awarded a \$918,340 grant to Illinois Wesleyan University to support four academic enrichment and scholarship programs for minority students.

"This grant," IWU President Minor Myers, jr., said, "is a clear statement on the part of State Farm and Illinois Wesleyan University that we support these students' aspirations--and that resources are available to help them achieve their goals."

The programs, which will be funded from 1995-98, are:

➤ **Wade H. McCree Incentive Scholarship Program, \$500,000.**

IWU is the first private college and the first campus outside of Michigan to join the prestigious Wade H. McCree, Jr. Incentive Scholarship Program. The McCree program aims at providing targeted Detroit high school students with mentoring, financial, and other resources designed to enhance their participation and retention rates in college.

Campuses participating in the McCree program agree to accept and provide full tuition for selected students who maintain a 3.0 grade-point average; score a minimum of 21 on the American College Test (ACT), a leading college entrance exam; attend an orientation seminar at sponsoring colleges; and meet other criteria.

The first three IWU McCree scholars are: Princess Johnson, Renaissance High School; Courtney Mathis, Murray Wright High School; and Chalan Towles, Martin Luther King High School.

IWU will accept three freshmen McCree scholars annually.

➤ **Summer Enrichment Program, \$239,140.** Thirteen IWU minority students will benefit this year from the Summer Enrichment Program. They will work in not-for-profit organizations and social service agencies in the Bloomington-Normal area, while taking two courses at IWU or Illinois State University. IWU provides room and board for the students and \$1,000 grants to compensate the students for reduced summer earnings.

A rundown of the 13 student participants and background on the program are

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contained in the accompanying news release.

➤ **Scholarship Funds, \$139,200.** This portion of the grant is earmarked to replace loan dollars with scholarship funds. It represents \$2,900 scholarships per year for 12 students over four years, reducing the level of loan indebtedness for these minority students.

➤ **Speakers Forum on Cultural Issues, \$40,000.** A speakers forum on cultural issues also is supported by State Farm grant funds. The forum, launched in 1990, has sponsored various musicians, plays, workshops, and speakers at IWU--events that are admission free and open to the general public. The Rev. Vernon C. King, nephew of slain civil-rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, was among several guest speakers whose appearance at IWU was supported by this program.

Wade McCree Program Background

When IWU joined the McCree program in May, 1994, Myers said the university was attracted to the program because of the innovative way it links high schools and higher education.

"The McCree scholarship program," Myers explained, "puts a premium on mentoring students--it makes an investment in people that goes far beyond dollars to help ensure their success.

"IWU alumni in the Detroit area will work with our McCree scholars in various ways during their high school years to help prepare them for college," Myers said, "and we also will schedule activities and programs for them on campus in Bloomington."

More than 700 students and 23 Detroit-area high schools are participating in the Wade McCree program. About 225 McCree scholars are attending 11 Michigan public universities, including the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University.

Highlights of the McCree program are:

➤ Participating campuses select the number of "slots" or tuition grants they are willing to provide annually. IWU has selected three "slots."

➤ Participating campuses mentor students from the 9th-12th grades, who are pre-assigned to them. IWU intends to involve Detroit-area alumni in various enrichment programs, as well as bringing the high schoolers to IWU's Bloomington, Ill., campus for programs and activities during their high school years.

➤ Students must complete the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in Detroit public

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middle schools to be eligible for the McCree program. They also must have a scholarship recommendation from their middle school counselor or principal, as well as have excellent reading and math scores on the California Achievement Test. Eligibility also is contingent on attending an August orientation session for parents and students.

- Students must take college preparatory courses and are counseled to exceed minimum standards in mathematics, science, and foreign languages.

- To enter college as McCree scholars, students must maintain vigorous academic quality in terms of their high school grade point average and test scores on various college admissions exams.

- Students and their parents must sign an agreement stating they will meet the academic performance standards outlined in the student-parent contract.

The program, founded in 1986, is named for Wade McCree, the well-known black attorney, federal judge, and U.S. solicitor general under President Jimmy Carter (1977-81). The solicitor general is a high-ranking U.S. Justice Department official, who argues the federal government's case in litigation before the Supreme Court of the United States.

McCree was the University of Michigan's Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law from 1981 until his death at age 67 in 1987. He founded Detroit's Higher Education Opportunities Committee and was a longtime advocate of equal access to higher education.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,800 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. In recent years, the university's endowment has grown to more than \$92 million; a \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$24 million science building will open in 1995. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 164 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."