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## For Immediate Release

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August 28, 1995

*(Meado, Cent. IL, Chicago)*  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Jared Johnson of **Bloomington (Tri-Valley High School)** is one of a dozen National Merit Scholars in the 1995 freshman class at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Johnson is among about 1,865 students--including approximately 520 freshmen --who began classes today at IWU for the 1995-96 school year.

Johnson graduated No. 2 in his class of 44 students last spring.

Among Johnson's academic honors, special awards and offices held in high school were National Honor Society, yearbook editor, yearbook student advisor, Swing Choir, Scholastic Bowl, various music contests and festivals, and seven drama productions, including several major roles.

Johnson has not decided on an academic major.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, established about 40 years ago, honors academically talented high school students nationwide. National Merit scholarships are underwritten by about 600 organizations and institutions, including corporations and campuses.

Jared is the son of Stephen and Arlene Johnson of RR #1, Box 181, Bloomington.

IWU, founded in 1850, offers a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research will be dedicated on Oct. 7. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. 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. *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."

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