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For Immediate Release

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August 28, 1995

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Chicago, Cent IL
locals, Oak Park Median*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Melissa Pikul of **Oak Park, Ill. (Oak Park/River Forest H.S.)** is one of a dozen National Merit Scholars in the 1995 freshman class at Illinois Wesleyan University.

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

Pikul graduated No. 1 in her class of 682 students last spring.

Among Pikul's academic honors, special awards and offices held in high school were membership in the Cum Laude Honor Society, Dean's List every semester, Fritzemeier Award finalist (an academic, service and leadership award), winner of the Outstanding Junior Student in Mathematics Award, National Spanish Honor Society, certificate of merit in the American High School Mathematics Examination, and outstanding achievement awards in chemistry, world history, and American history.

Her extracurricular activities included: Speech Team, Service Club, drama productions, work on her high school newspaper and participation in a youth group. Pikul won a teen excellence award from the Illinois Citizens Assembly in 1993 for volunteer service.

Pikul intends to major in chemistry.

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.

Melissa is the daughter of Donald and MaryJo Pikul of 1024 S. Kenilworth, Oak Park, Ill.

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*

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