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For Immediate Release

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August 28, 1995

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Taryn Hettlinger of **Bloomington, Ill. (Lake Park H.S.)** is one of a dozen National Merit Scholars in the 1995 freshman class at Illinois Wesleyan University.

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

Hettlinger graduated No. 1 in her class of 625 students last spring.

Among Hettlinger's academic honors, special awards and offices held in high school were Pride in Performance Award for Academics, National Honor Society vice president, highest honor roll every year, drama performance and crew, Creative Arts Club, Spanish Club, International Thespian Society, Student Council, Speech Team, International Club, and Mathletes.

Hettlinger 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.

Taryn is the daughter of Robert and Victoria Hettlinger, 256 Millford Lane, Bloomington, 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 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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