



Summer 6-12-2024

Board of Trustees Honors Service of President Nugent, Bids Farewell

Julia Perez
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Perez, Julia, "Board of Trustees Honors Service of President Nugent, Bids Farewell" (2024). *News and Events*. 6536.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6536>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Board of Trustees Honors Service of President Nugent, Bids Farewell

BY JULIA PEREZ | JUNE 12, 2024

NEWS



BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — President S. Georgia Nugent was recognized for her resolute leadership by the Illinois Wesleyan University Board of Trustees as she concludes her tenure as the University's 20th president.

At the May 17 Board of Trustees meeting, board chair Timothy J. Szerlong '74 commended Nugent for her efforts to navigate IWU through challenges and celebrations with "great integrity and constant pursuit of excellence."

"You have been a passionate champion for IWU and have left an indelible imprint in shaping our future through your ability to make difficult but necessary decisions with an unwavering commitment to shaping a contemporary liberal arts experience for today's and tomorrow's students," said Szerlong in a proclamation.

The board noted several milestones reached with Nugent at the helm, such as the establishment the [School of Business & Economics](#) and the [School of Nursing and Health Sciences](#), the dedication of the [Greg Yess '82 Bloomberg Finance Lab](#), the appointment of the University's [first Cabinet-level diversity officer](#), major [renovations in residence halls](#), new [articulation agreements](#) with community colleges and the addition of several intercollegiate sports and [academic programs](#). Nugent was also recognized for her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring minimal disruption to the University.

As the first female president of Illinois Wesleyan, Nugent joined IWU as the interim president in August 2019 and accepted the permanent position in November that year.

A widely published scholar of the classics and of higher education, Nugent earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a doctorate from Cornell University as a first-generation college student. Before beginning a decade-long presidency at Kenyon, Nugent served at Princeton as assistant to the president, associate provost, and dean of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and as professor of classics at Princeton and Brown universities. She also taught on the classics faculties of Cornell as well as Swarthmore College and Kenyon. Nugent later served as interim president at The College of Wooster during the 2015-16 academic year.

Nugent announced her decision to step down from IWU's presidency in fall of 2023. After a nationwide search, [Sheahon Zenger was selected as the next leader of Illinois Wesleyan](#), effective July 1.



S. Georgia Nugent has served as the 20th president of IWU since 2019.