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Exceptional Student Fellowships State farm Awards Two Grants to IWU Students

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April 16, 1996

Contact: Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181*locals
cent IL
chicago**Exceptional Student Fellowships***State Farm Awards Two Grants to IWU Students**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Two Illinois Wesleyan University students are among 50 college students nationwide to receive State Farm Exceptional Student Fellowships.

The IWU students, receiving the \$3,000 awards, are:

- Gwendolyn M. Alexander, a senior majoring in economics and international studies from

Crest Hill, Ill.

- Tina Beaird, a junior majoring in international business from **Urbana, Ill.**

Alexander, who has won the award for two consecutive years, will enter a doctoral program in economics at the University of Maryland this fall.

In January, 1995, Alexander was among 19 IWU students who participated in a two-week program of foreign policy-national security briefings by Capitol Hill staffers, officials of the State Department, Pentagon, Central Intelligence Agency, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Agency for International Development, U.S. Information Agency, and other federal agencies, as well as the embassies of Israel, Syria, and the People's Republic of China, and an interest group, the Center for Defense Information.

During the summer of 1995, Alexander gained professional experience working in the Division of Economic and Commercial Studies, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. State Department. Her responsibilities included teaching and troubleshooting for classes on spreadsheet skills and international economics topics such as trade, structural adjustment programs, devaluations, and basic economic indicators. The classes she worked in were for Foreign Service Officers headed to overseas assignments. She also conducted research and set up a case study on the CFA Franc Zone, a monetary union in Africa.

Beaird was cited in IWU's 1994-95 President's Report for her volunteer activities involving Circle K, a collegiate counterpart to Kiwanis. She has served as a divisional lieutenant governor for the group. Beaird pointed out that over the last few years, the 59 IWU student members of Circle K have raised money to fight spastic paralysis, tutored youngsters living in public housing, worked with children in the Partners in Reading program at the public library, played Bingo with the elderly at a nursing home, assisted the Special Olympics, and helped raise money for the Salvation Army and March of Dimes.

State Farm Exceptional Student Fellowship awards assist and recognize high potential

(more)

IWU State Farm Fellowship Winners/2

college students in their preparation for leadership roles in business and society.

College juniors and seniors, majoring in business-related studies at accredited U.S. colleges or universities, are eligible for the awards.

Winners are selected by an independent committee of educators on the basis of demonstrated leadership in extracurricular activities as well as scholarship, character, potential business administrative capability, and the recommendations of deans, professors, and advisors.

In addition to the \$3,000 grant received by the fellowship winners, a \$250 grant is made to campus that made the nominations. A \$500 grant also is made to the college or university fellowship winners are attending, if it is private.

The fellowships are awarded through the State Farm Companies Foundation, which was founded in 1963 to handle the many requests received by the companies for financial support. It is an arm of the Bloomington-based insurance company.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,850 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994; and a \$25 million science building opened in the fall of 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 161 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.