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July 25, 1996

**Contact:** Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## **31 Chicago high school students to attend innovative camp at IWU, July 28-Aug. 3**

### *program launches new mentoring-scholarship program linking Chicago public schools-26 Illinois campuses*

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Thirty-one Chicago Public School students, beginning their freshman year in high school this fall, will attend a special camp creatively blending academics and athletics, July 28-Aug. 3, at Illinois Wesleyan University. The camp is part of a sweeping new mentoring and four-year college scholarship program linking the Windy City's schools with 26 private Illinois colleges and universities.

The summer camp officially launches the Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI)-Chicago Scholars program, announced Feb. 14 at IWU's Founders' Day Convocation.

"The purpose of the ACI-Chicago Scholars program," said IWU President Minor Myers, Jr., "is to ensure the college readiness of academically talented inner-city youth.

"What we're saying to these students is clear and simple," Myers added. "Work hard in school, keep your grades up, and 26 campuses across the state of Illinois will make sure the money--and academic support--is there for you to go to college."

IWU is participating in the ACI-Chicago Scholars program.

#### **Innovative Program**

Basketball jump shots, cue balls careening around pool tables, and laser beams bent by lenses will help the Chicago students sharpen their math, science, and writing skills during the week long camp.

The summer camp's innovative curriculum, devised by Narendra Jaggi, IWU associate professor and chairperson of physics, stresses links between fields traditionally thought of as separate--fields like writing, computers, geometry, trigonometry, physics, and history.

The curriculum applies sports creatively as a catalyst to spur and sustain students' interest in learning.

"Beginning with sports," Jaggi explained, "we can try to find the best basketball jump shot with some students shooting and others videotaping the shooters and keeping statistics. We can determine what fraction of the shots go in. We can play back the tape and measure angles at which shots were attempted.

"By freeze framing shots," Jaggi said, "you can measure how fast a shot was launched and from what height off the floor. Pretty soon you have a collection of numbers that need to be tabulated and the students have no choice but to use a spread sheet program and get into computers.

"Students can recognize that a basketball is about half the width of a basket," Jaggi added, "so there is always a margin of error and shots can still be made. They can study the odds--what is the greatest error

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that can be tolerated and still make the basket?"

Studies of the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a basketball will introduce students to the concept of pi, Jaggi said, a concept that can be applied to baseballs, tennis balls, and others. Jaggi points out these studies can introduce students to notions of velocity, horizontal distance the ball travels, arcs, and mathematical concepts like sine and cosine. These studies also can trigger discussions of the history and philosophy of mathematics .

Campers will receive Internet and other computer training to help them conduct their studies.

Diane Stempinski, a Bloomington High School English teacher, and Jeff Lockenvitz, a 1984 IWU elementary education graduate and principal of Bloomington's Washington Elementary School, are serving as summer camp program administrators--a role they also performed for a similar program, run July 21-27 for 24 Bloomington students, who will begin their freshman year in high school this fall. Vernee Irving, a 1996 IWU graduate, is summer camp coordinator for ACI and IWU.

### **Other Activities**

The summer camp program is a balance among activities involving academics, self-esteem and social skills development, team building, and a healthy lifestyle focus. Recreational programs, including a cook out, pizza party, volleyball, swimming, board games, and a scavenger hunt are part of the week long program. Counselors will lead students in small group sessions designed to bond them into teams.

Campers will sharpen their writing skills by keeping a daily journal, writing their families, and working with counselors serving as writing coaches. They also will work on word-processing and study skills.

Campers will discuss a community service project they can work on throughout the year.

### **ACI-Chicago Scholars Program**

The ACI-Chicago Scholars Program, which begins with the 1996-97 school year, is modeled on Detroit's Wade H. McCree, Jr. Incentive Scholarship Program, launched in 1986. Rebie R. Kingston, director of the Office of Guidance for the Detroit Public Schools and an IWU trustee, helped establish the McCree program and her office administers it. IWU, which joined the McCree program in 1994, is the only private university and non-Michigan campus in the McCree program.

ACI campuses are tailor-made for sponsoring programs like the Chicago Scholars, explained Jerry Fuller, executive director of the Chicago-based ACI. He points out that 51 percent of students attending ACI campuses graduate in four years, compared to 26 percent statewide.

"ACI institutions," Fuller said, "have a 25 percent higher graduation rate for African-American students than other colleges and universities in the state."

Fuller credits this success to smaller classes at ACI campuses, professors with a student-oriented

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attitude, and a prime focus on teaching and the development of students.

The ACI-Chicago Scholars--members of the college class of 2004--and their parents attended a June 29 orientation session in Chicago. Students had individual counseling sessions. Students and parents also met with Chicago Public School officials and they signed a program contract.

"Among provisions in the contract," Fuller explained, "are the students' academic goals--a 'B' average in school, a 21 on the ACT college entrance test, and a 95 percent attendance rate in school. If they meet those goals, we will provide a financial aid package making it affordable for them to go to college."

ACI will match students to the "right" college for them in the ACI membership.

"Each of our campuses," Fuller said, "has its own culture and flavor so we will match students to where it is best for them."

Tutors, a summer enrichment program, and mentoring by participating campuses and corporate supporters are program features.

Participating ACI campuses will determine how many students they can financially support. Students will be randomly assigned to these campuses, accordingly. Under certain conditions, students will be able to switch the campus they are assigned to during their last semester in high school. For example, students may switch campuses, if their assigned college or university does not offer a program in a chosen field of study.

Additional details of the program's operations are still under development.

In addition to IWU, other ACI campuses are: Augustana College, Rock Island; Aurora University, Aurora; Barat College, Lake Forest; Blackburn College, Carlinville; College of St. Francis, Joliet; Concordia University, River Forest; Elmhurst College, Elmhurst; Eureka College, Eureka; Greenville College, Greenville; Illinois College, Jacksonville; Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle; Knox College, Galesburg; Lake Forest College, Lake Forest; MacMurray College, Jacksonville; McKendree College, Lebanon; Millikin University, Decatur; Monmouth College, Monmouth; North Central College, Naperville; North Park College, Chicago; Olivet Nazarene University, Kankakee; Principia College, Elmhurst; Quincy University, Quincy; Rosary College, River Forest; St. Xavier University, Chicago; and Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights.

#### **Rebie Kingston and the Wade McCree Program**

Rebie R. Kingston is an educator with broad experience in guidance and counseling with special emphasis on "at-risk" students. She is among far-sighted educators who launched the Wade H. McCree Jr. Scholarship Incentive Program.

The McCree program provides targeted Detroit high school students with mentoring, financial, and other resources designed to enhance their participation and retention rates in colleges.

"The students in the McCree program can compete with any in the nation," Kingston said. "They take

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honors classes, they study math, science, and foreign languages--every semester. They are excellent students."

In an interview last February with IWU Public Relations and News Services, Kingston said:

"The Wade McCree Program has two goals--to prepare students for entry into college and their retention in college. Ninety-nine percent of the students in the program go to college. Our drop-out rate is low because of the support we give to students. And, our students must take college preparatory courses."

Twenty-eight Detroit high schools and 1,000 students participate in the Wade McCree Program, as well as 10 Michigan universities--all public institutions--and IWU.

#### **Illinois Wesleyan University**

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. The university's endowment is valued at more than \$100 million. A \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research opened Aug. 28, 1995, and was dedicated Oct. 7, 1995. 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 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. *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."

<p><b>Editor's Note:</b> To arrange interviews or photo opportunities during the ACI-Chicago Scholars Summer Camp, call IWU Public Relations-News Services at 309/556-3181.</p>
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