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Creating Communiversity" IWU Hosts Second Annual Volunteer Weekend

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*Central IL
Locals*

"Creating Communiversality" IWU Hosts Second Annual Volunteer Weekend

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--In conjunction with National Volunteer Week (April 21-27), Illinois Wesleyan University will sponsor its second annual Volunteer Weekend on April 10-13.

Under the theme "Creating Communiversality," the event will feature projects uniting IWU volunteers with local community agencies needing assistance, guest speakers on volunteerism, and a free picnic sponsored by Marriott food service.

"We're hoping that this weekend will instill a volunteer spirit among participants and lead to continued community service in the future," said IWU Career Center Volunteer Coordinator Meredith Kruse. "As volunteers, students can not only give something to their community, but also learn more about themselves and community problems."

On Thursday, April 10, guest speaker Shawn Sweeney, executive director of Illinois Campus Compact for Community Service will speak on Service Learning, or learning outside the classroom, at 7:00 p.m. in Room C101 of the Center for Natural Sciences at 201 E. Beecher, Bloomington. ICCCS is a member consortium of Illinois colleges and universities working to increase community service and service learning activities on campus.

Sweeney will be joined by IWU Associate Professor and Chairperson of Religion/Director of Women's Studies Carol Myscowski, who will discuss possible effects of service learning on IWU's curriculum in the future, and James Vanbauchman, a representative of federal volunteer agencies Americorps and VISTA.

On Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, IWU volunteers will participate in various projects serving 13 local community agencies. According to Kruse, volunteers may choose when and where to participate from a list of scheduled projects.

"We're hoping that when you make it this easy to volunteer, students will be more willing to put in the time," Kruse said. "They might get interested in something, and hopefully volunteerism can become a long-term commitment."

Community agencies receiving IWU volunteers include the Heritage Manor Nursing Home, Planned Parenthood, McLean County Nursing Home, Clare House of

(more)

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Hospitality, Neville House, Heartland Headstart, PATH Senior Services, Home Sweet Home Mission, Easter Seals, Bloomington Housing Authority, Baby Fold, Homes for Hope, and Bloomington Boys & Girls Club.

IWU organizations providing volunteers include Acacia, Alpha Phi Omega, FIGI, Sigma Pi, Sigma Chi, and TKE fraternities; Sigma Kappa, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Alpha Omicron Pi, and Alpha Gamma Delta sororities; Habitat for Humanity; Ferguson residence hall; Gay/Straight Alliance; Environmental Concerns Organization; the Kids Power Club; Students in Design; Catholic Newman Organization; and IWU Career Center.

On Saturday, April 12, Marriott food service will sponsor a free picnic for volunteers and community agency representatives at 5:00 p.m. in the IWU Cabana.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,900 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 \$4.6 million Center for Liberal Arts--a facility housing 60 faculty offices, six classrooms, and other facilities for social science, humanities business and economics, and interdisciplinary studies' faculty--is slated to open next August, as well as a new \$6.8 million residence hall. 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.