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# Illinois Wesleyan University

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### <u>Maria Steiner of Chatham</u> Illinois Wesleyan Graduate Named Lincoln Laureate

Bloomington, Ill.--A recent Illinois Wesleyan University graduate has received a Student Laureate Award from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, recognizing her academic and extracurricular achievements.

Maria Steiner of Chatham, Ill., and about 50 other college seniors from around the state received the award at a November 15th ceremony attended by Gov. Jim Edgar and other dignitaries in the Illinois House of Representatives, Springfield.

"It is the biggest honor that I have ever received. I was very surprised to be chosen to represent the university," said Steiner, a mathematics major and secondary education minor. "This award shows that the hard academic and extracurricular work I did at Illinois Wesleyan paid off."

Among Steiner's other achievements are her membership in Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Kappa Phi, both national honorary societies. She was also on the Dean's List each semester she attended IWU. To be on the Dean's List, a student must have a grade-point average of 3.50 or better during the semester, based on 4.0 for all As.

Steiner, a graduate of Mater Die High School, Breeze, Ill., tutored students in mathematics during her years at IWU. Steiner was president of Sigma Kappa, a social sorority, and a member of IWU's Math Society and Student Education Association. Through her involvement in Ambassador's Club, Steiner hosted, toured, and provided information for prospective students.

Lincoln Laureates received \$150, a certificate, and a medal. They also attended a luncheon at the Illinois Executive Mansion in Springfield.

"The Lincoln Laureate program," explained Steiner, "honors students who succeed both academically and in extracurricular activities and that demonstrate a strong balance in their lives and a high level of dedication to their university." Steiner was accompanied to the ceremony by her father, Ken, and her mother, Nedie. Steiner's academic advisor, Dr. Melvyn Jeter, IWU professor of mathematics, also attended the event.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and it Schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletic center, a \$25 million science building, a \$6.8 million residence hall, and a \$5.1 million liberal arts center. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching ranks Illinois Wesleyan a "Baccalaureate I" institution, a classification that places it among the 159 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges. IWU won the 1997 NCAA Division III men's basketball championship.

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