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IWU Hosts Student Research Symposium

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IWU Hosts Student Research Symposium

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- From June 4 to 7, Illinois Wesleyan University will host the fifth annual National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Science, Mathematics and Technology Student Research Symposium.

Fifty students representing 23 NCSSSMST schools will work with Illinois Wesleyan faculty members, attend workshops, present oral presentations and display research posters during the four-day symposium, hosted by IWU with support from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation of Irvine, Calif.

The public is invited to attend the two sessions of formal oral presentations and the poster session, all staged in IWU's Center for Natural Science, 201 E. Beecher. The oral presentations will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday (June 5) and 2:30 p.m. Saturday (June 6), and the poster session will be at 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Among the research projects to be presented include "Gene Expression in Tobacco Transformed by Agrobacterium," "F-16 Technology Analysis," and "The Effect of Metal Concentrations in Soil on Corn Growth."

Illinois Wesleyan faculty presenting workshops for the students attending the symposium include Zahia Drici, mathematics and computer science; Lon Shapiro, mathematics and computer science; Bruce Criley and Sheryl Swartz Soukup, biology; Rebecca Roesner and David Bailey, chemistry; and Gabriel Spalding, physics.

Biology professor Thomas Griffiths will address the students at the closing banquet. Griffiths won IWU's top teaching honor in 1990 and was named one of the nation's best college teachers in 1991 by Rolling Stone Magazine.

The NCSSSMST Student Research Symposium is designed specifically to involve students in scientific research and provide a model for disseminating information on how to teach scientific research to secondary students (ninth- through 12th-graders). In addition to the poster and oral presentations, students will be offered such diversions as movies, a barbecue dinner, talent show, bowling, and off-campus visits to the ParkLands Nature Preserve, Prairie Aviation Museum and Funk Gem and Mineral Museum, the Upper Limits Climbing Gym, and Wildlife Prairie Park.

Previous NCSSSMST symposia have been held at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Catholic University of Washington, D.C., Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, and Washington University in St. Louis.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,000 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 center opened in fall 1995. The \$5.1 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, opened in August 1997, as did 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 159 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.