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April 22, 1993

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**Junior, Senior High School Honor Roll Students**

**African-American, Hispanic Students to be Honored at IWU**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Upwards of 130 African-American and Hispanic junior and senior high school students from Bloomington-Normal will be honored at Illinois Wesleyan University on Sunday (April 25) for outstanding academic achievement.

The recognition ceremony--co-sponsored for the second consecutive year by IWU; *The Pantagraph* newspaper; and Neighbor to Neighbor, a community group--will honor 7th-to 12th-graders from seven area schools, who are Honor Roll students.

The academic achievement recognition ceremony will take place at 3 p.m., April 25 in the Davidson Room of IWU's Memorial Student Center.

The participating schools are: Bloomington Junior High School, Bloomington High School, Normal Community High School, University High School, Metcalf Laboratory School, Chiddix Junior High School, and Parkside Junior High School. The principals of the seven schools are expected to attend the recognition ceremony.

The 1992 recognition ceremony was held in connection with Black History Month activities. This year, the program has been broadened to include Hispanic students.

"We want to continue to celebrate the academic achievements of African-American students, but this year we have included Hispanic students," said Joy Carew, IWU's director of minority services, "as part of an effort to encourage all of these outstanding students to keep up their good work. We also hope that other students will be inspired to excel in school when they see their friends honored as role models."

Carew explained the schools selected the youngsters based on their own criteria. However, the common thread linking the students is that all of them were on the Honor Roll or were top-ranked as of the second quarter of the school year.

About 30 African-American students will be given special recognition for winning academic honors two years in a row. "These students," Carew said, "are being recognized for their persistence. Twenty-three students will be recognized

for maintaining their Honor Roll ranking over two years in high school and seven students will be recognized for remaining on the Honor Roll first as junior high school students and now as high school freshmen."

The 60- to 90-minute program will kick off with welcoming messages from IWU President Minor Myers, jr; *The Pantagraph* publisher John Goldrick; and Barbara Malone, executive director of Neighbor to Neighbor, a multi-racial group that works with youth and underprivileged families.

Don Bradshaw, production control coordinator at General Electric, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Music will be provided by Hosaia Brown, who is active in the Community Players, Heartland Theatre, and the Cultural Fest, as well as a supporter of community youth; Cecelia Sanchez-Harris, an IWU instructor in foreign language; and Angel and Frank McSwain, Jr., the children of the Rev. Frank McSwain, Sr., pastor of the Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church in Bloomington.

The awards will be presented to the junior and senior high school students by minority students attending IWU. Special awards for continued academic achievement by junior and senior high school students will be presented by Ana Maria Parent, an IWU assistant professor of Spanish.

Closing remarks will be offered by Diana McCauley, a member of the Bloomington School Board and acting chair of IWU's Department of Education, and Malone.