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## Immediate Release : Two Members of Faculty Among 31 People Chosen to Participate

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# Illinois Wesleyan University



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Feb. 22, 1984

BLOOMINGTON, ILL.--Two members of the Illinois Wesleyan University faculty, Dr. Peggy Jacobson and Dr. Sue Huseman, are among 31 persons in a six-state area chosen to participate in a federally funded Oral Proficiency Project Workshop at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston Feb. 29 through Mar. 4.

Illinois Wesleyan and Wisconsin-LaCrosse are the only institutions with two representatives. The workshop was open to college and university faculty members from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin.

The two-stage program's goal is to improve oral proficiency interview and rating techniques in foreign languages. Jacobson will be working in Spanish and Huseman in French. German also is included in the Charleston program and Italian has been included in other workshops. The second stage of the program will involve participants conducting tape-recorded interviews on their campus with volunteers from high schools and other colleges or universities. They will use the system learned at the workshop to evaluate the proficiency level of those interviewed.

The program was developed after the November 1979 Report of the President's Commission on Foreign Language and International Studies cited a need for the United States to strengthen its competence in foreign languages.

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, has worked with other agencies including the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J., in developing the nationwide program. Tuition costs of participants are covered by the grant.

Huseman, a member of the Wesleyan faculty since 1969, is Director of the Humanities Division and associate professor of French. Jacobson, assistant professor of Spanish, joined the faculty in 1982.

Dr. Luz Maria N. Berd of George Williams College, Downers Grove, is the project

director for Illinois. Judith Liskin-Gasparro of the Educational Testing Service is the workshop co-ordinator. Trainers include Berd; Pardee Lowe and Nina Levinson of the CIA Language School; Sally Magnan of the University of Wisconsin and Mariette Reed of ETS.