



2016

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University Communications
Illinois Wesleyan University

Recommended Citation

University Communications, "Buschman ;17 Honored as 2016 Lincoln Laureate" (2016). *News and Events*. 2934.
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Buschman '17 Honored as 2016 Lincoln Laureate

Nov. 14, 2016

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Illinois Wesleyan University [sociology](#) major Paige Buschman '17 of Lemont, Ill., has been named a 2016 Student Laureate by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

The Lincoln Academy's Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Awards are presented for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities to seniors from each of the state's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from the community colleges in Illinois. Each student recipient receives a Student Laureate Medallion, along with a \$1,000 educational grant and a certificate of achievement, at the Student Laureate Convocation.

"I feel so sincerely honored that President [Eric] Jensen would pick me for the award," said Buschman. "It's a little special for both of us considering I am his first laureate."

Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology Meghan Burke accompanied Buschman to the awards convocation. "Dr. Burke is a fabulous professor, woman, mentor, researcher and human being," said Buschman. "She has advised my [Eckley research project](#), which is an extended version of my sociology senior seminar, and has pushed me to do my best in this area, but also in all areas of my work. She has given me sound advice in every corner of life and that has been invaluable to me. Illinois Wesleyan and I are lucky to have a professor like her."

At Illinois Wesleyan Buschman is a Lead Sustainability Educator in the Office of Residential Life and member of GREENetwork, Sigma Tau Delta English honor society, Alpha Kappa Delta sociology honor society, and National Society for Leadership and Success. She is president of the IWU Pride Alliance and has served on the executive board every semester except one throughout her career as an Illinois Wesleyan student. This past summer she overhauled SafeZone, which focuses on LGBTQ+ sensitivity training for faculty, staff and students. She was also a co-initiator of establishing gender-inclusive housing on campus. She was selected as a 2016 Eckley Scholar to explore the effects of socialization around issues of gender on sexual assault on college campuses.

After graduation from Illinois Wesleyan Buschman plans to enter graduate school pursuing higher education administration. She hopes to work in student affairs diversity centers.



Associate Professor of Sociology Meghan Burke (left) accompanied laureate Paige Buschman to the awards convocation.

