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Saturday luncheon remarks

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Saturday luncheon

Good afternoon and welcome! I am Adriane Powell, Director of Alumni Engagement here at Illinois Wesleyan. I have the distinct honor and very real privilege to work with the alumnae, staff and faculty who make up the Council for IWU Women. To the students, welcome. I so enjoy getting to know you and look forward to working more closely with you in the future, connecting you with the councilwomen and many other alumni.

I am not a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and if we had much more time I would share my long and winding educational path. I often think my path would have been much more concise and direct had I been fortunate enough to have an IWU and Council for IWU Women in my young life. But here I am and it with this level of gratitude that I want to thank all of the council for your generosity to Illinois Wesleyan. As Bevin mentioned yesterday, but it bears repeating...in addition to your work, your families, your countless other commitments, you dive into the months of planning so that our students can know their true and unlimited potential. From the bottom of my heart, Thank You.

I have one more special thank you. Today marks the end of the two year term for our Council President Jennifer Jones.

Jennifer says time and time again that Illinois Wesleyan gave her so much and she simply wants to give back. And boy does she ever. Jennifer graciously stepped in as our leader two years ago when we were struggling to find someone with the time and commitment that this role requires. She had already served as a volunteer for Illinois Wesleyan as the Regional Chair in New York City and then as a dedicated member of the Chicago region, so we were well aware of her talents. A member of the Council for 12 years, she led the career connection at the Summit for a few years and now as the CFW president, she jumped right in looking for ways to improve the council, gaining valuable feedback from the members and then moving things forward.

Throughout her time volunteering in all the different roles for Illinois Wesleyan, Jennifer managed to travel around the world (probably a few times), get married, have an adorable son, move to New York, move to Chicago, move to Florida, change jobs, get divorced AND dive back into the dating scene! Trust me from someone who knows-----that is not an easy feat! But Jennifer, you have done it all with style and grace and humor. This Summit is a beautiful culmination of your leadership. I am SO happy to call you a friend. Congratulations on a successful tenure as president.