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## National Recognition of IWU Interfaith Service

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## National Recognition of IWU Interfaith Service

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— The interfaith service efforts at Illinois Wesleyan University have received national recognition in *the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge Inaugural Report* compiled by the U.S. Department of Education.

The report was released in September 2013 and includes the best practices from universities all across the United States participating in the Challenge.

The White House Center of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships launched the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge in the summer of 2011.

President Barack Obama wrote in a foreword for *the Inaugural Report*, "Based on the simple truth that Americans of all faiths or even no faith, share a common destiny, we asked higher education institutions to develop or strengthen their interfaith and community service programs."

Evelyn Chapel has lead IWU's initiatives as a part of the Challenge, and is also home to the Multifaith Ambassador program.

The program is composed of student leaders representing a variety of faith and non-faith traditions. These Ambassadors were highlighted in the report along with IWU's Interfaith Service Day and "Light the Night: A Multicultural Celebration of Season of Light."

The Multifaith Ambassadors also founded IWU Interfaith, a new RSO. It's mission is to create a more peaceful world through encouraging mutual respect and understanding between faith and non-religious traditions, as well as to cultivate an active role in service in the Bloomington-Normal community.

"I really wanted our campus to be a part of the Challenge so that students, first of all, would know that we are a part of a national interfaith and service movement," said Chaplain Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger. "I also hoped they'd be exposed to best practices from other campuses across the country."

Students from other IWU Student organizations such as, Death, Resurrection, Life (D.R.L.), Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Student Secular Alliance, Hillel and IWU Peace Garden, have also participated in these Challenge events.