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IWU Alum Honored for Contributions to Art Education

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan alum Barbara Caldwell, class of 1973, associate professor of art and design at Iowa State University’s College of Design, recently received the 2006 Distinguished Service within the Profession Award from the National Art Education Association (NAEA).

Presented at the NAEA National Convention in Chicago in March, the award recognizes outstanding achievement and contributions to the field of art education and to national and state art education programs. Caldwell, according to NAEA president Susan Gabbard, “exemplifies the highly qualified individuals active in the field of art education today: leaders, teachers, students, scholars and advocates who give their best to the profession.”

Caldwell earned a master of science degree in education at Illinois State University in 1980, a bachelor’s degree in art education with high honors in 1987, and a doctorate in art education in 1991. From 1991 to 1996, Caldwell taught art and humanities at the College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, Ill.).

Since arriving at Iowa State in 1996, Caldwell has taught art education courses and supervised graduate research and student teaching. Along with colleague Dennis Dake, Caldwell is co-director of the New Art Basics curriculum project that serves art educators throughout Iowa and the United States. According to Dake, art educators in Iowa look to Caldwell as “a primary resource for knowledge and service in the areas of national and international art education.”

Among her many accolades, Caldwell was recognized as Iowa Higher Education Educator of the Year (1997), NAEA Western Region Art Educator of the Year (1998), and Iowa Art Educator of the Year (2001). In 2003, Caldwell earned the Alumni Hall of Fame Award from the Illinois State University College of design. She also received the AEI Distinguished Service within the Profession Award in 2005.

Currently, Caldwell represents Iowa in the International Society for Education through Art. She also serves as the national secretary of the United States Society for Education through Art (USSEA), while maintaining memberships with the International Visual Literacy Association, the American Association of University Women, and the Iowa Alliance for

Arts Education.