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New Endowed Professorship Announced for Transforming Lives Campaign

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University announced a new endowed professorship recently at the annual Trustees Dinner as a part of Transforming Lives: The Campaign for Illinois Wesleyan University.

Robert Harrington, former chair of the Business and Economics Department and emeritus professor at Illinois Wesleyan, is establishing a new endowed professorship. Endowed professorships celebrate the combined talents of professors who excel in instructional and scholarly activity, and support their efforts to bring research into the classroom.

“I decided to come work at Illinois Wesleyan because I saw the potential in the faculty members,” said Harrington. “I know this professorship will recognize faculty who distinguish themselves as teachers and scholars.”

Before coming to Illinois Wesleyan, Harrington taught at Wisconsin State University in Superior and Indiana State University. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the Illinois State University, and a master’s degree and doctorate from the State University of Iowa.

Harrington, who served on the University faculty from 1968 to 1989, understands the importance of endowed professorships. Coming to IWU the same year President Robert S. Eckley became the University’s president, Harrington had the honor of being named the inaugural recipient of the University’s Robert S. Eckley Distinguished Professor of Economics in 1986. It was the same year Harrington created a trust for the University, and his support for Illinois Wesleyan has continued throughout the years.

His professorship will be the sixth established under the Transforming Lives campaign. Building new endowed professorships is a goal of Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs Chuck and Jay Ames, who challenged University friends and alumni to create 10 new professorships.

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