

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Indiana Wesleyan University and Questa Foundation Partner  
to Reduce Debt and Retain Graduates in Northeast Indiana**

March 22, 2011, Fort Wayne, Indiana – Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) has formed a partnership with Questa Foundation for Education to provide financial assistance for IWU students in the Questa Scholars Program that also incentivizes these future leaders to become contributing members of northeast Indiana’s workforce after they graduate from the university.

Questa Scholars may borrow up to \$20,000 over four years to pay for college. Questa Foundation will forgive up to 50 percent of a Questa Scholars loan balance if the student graduates with at least a 2.75 cumulative grade-point average and elects to reside and work in one of the 11 counties of northeast Indiana for at least five years after college.

Students who attend Indiana Wesleyan University and graduate from high school in one of five northeastern Indiana counties – Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko and Whitley – are eligible to participate in the Questa Scholars Program.

The Pay Back Partnership agreement between Indiana Wesleyan University and Questa Foundation commits IWU to repay an additional 25 percent of a Questa Scholars loan if the student graduates from the university in four years. Questa Scholars at IWU will now benefit from having up to 75 percent of a \$20,000 college loan forgiven and repaid on their behalf.

Questa Foundation’s college loan forgiveness program is the only one of its kind in the nation that ties debt forgiveness to college attainment and regional talent retention. Questa Foundation’s debt forgiveness, based upon residency and employment in northeast Indiana, occurs on a graduated scale over five years. IWU will pay down the student’s debt by 25 percent immediately after graduation.

“Almost 90 percent of Indiana Wesleyan University students require financial assistance, so we are pleased when we can form partnerships with groups like Questa Foundation to assist those students,” said IWU President Henry Smith.

“We also are proud of the increasing numbers of IWU students who choose to live and work in northeast Indiana after they graduate. Our partnership with Questa Foundation provides one more incentive for students to make that decision,” Smith said.

Christina K. Smith, executive director of Questa Foundation, said “The IWU-Questo partnership allows northeast Indiana’s best and brightest from middle income families to pursue a high-quality IWU education with tremendous affordability.”

“We are very pleased that every college and university in northeast Indiana has joined Questa Foundation in a Pay Back Partnership agreement, providing added incentives for our region’s future leaders to pursue their educational training right here in northeast Indiana,” added Smith.

IWU currently has two students who are Questa Scholars.

For more information about the Questa Scholars Pay Back Partnership agreement, contact IWU’s Office of Admissions at (866) 468-6498 or Questa Foundation at (260) 407-6494.

***About Questa Foundation for Education:*** Questa Foundation for Education assists young people with financial need to attain a college education, graduate with less debt and become contributing members of northeast Indiana’s workforce. The Questa Scholars Program is the nation’s only college loan forgiveness program tied to regional talent retention. In 2010, Questa Foundation adopted a strategic goal to increase college attainment rates in northeast Indiana from 26.5% to 60% of 22-26 year olds by 2025. For more information, visit [www.questafoundation.org](http://www.questafoundation.org).

***About Indiana Wesleyan University:*** Indiana Wesleyan University is an evangelical Christian comprehensive university of The Wesleyan Church, which has its world headquarters in Indianapolis. The University was founded in 1920, and is committed to liberal arts and professional education. Almost 3,300 students are enrolled in traditional programs on the University’s residential campus in Marion. Another 12,500 adult learners attend classes at education centers in Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, and online.

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