

COURTESY OF ILLINOIS CAMPUS COMPACT



◀ The winners of the Illinois Campus Compact second place prize are congratulated by Rosalynn Carter

# The aRt of Collaboration:

## Illinois campus chapters and partner affiliate win award

By Chloe Kontos

When Thomas Edison was asked why he had a team comprised of 21 assistants, he responded, "If I could solve the problem myself, I would." Not only does Thomas Edison realize the value of teamwork, it is the Illinois Campus Compact Carter Partnership Award that annually awards the most successful campus-community collaboration. This year, the second place prize for \$7,500 was awarded to the three-way partnership between the Habitat campus chapters from Illinois

State University and Illinois Wesleyan University and Habitat for Humanity of McLean County in Bloomington, Ill. Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University have built 11 homes since 1995, when they first began their partnership with the McLean Habitat affiliate. Presently, they have a 400-member chapter collectively and are working to complete their 12th consecutive house. Bruce Williams, director of HFH of McLean County, explains their successful collaboration as a product of differ-

ent factors like regular communication, strong faculty leadership and good organization of each university's executive board. Because the board at both universities is involved in every aspect of the build, the board members handle a broad spectrum of issues from advocacy to awareness.

In addition, the close proximity of the two universities to the McLean office, both less than five miles away from the McLean affiliate office, makes communication effortless. Located in the sister cities of Bloomington and Normal respectively, Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State have collectively raised \$38,500 just this year and are still fund raising. While Illinois Wesleyan is a small liberal arts private college comprised of 2,000 students, Illinois State is a public university that has approximately 20,000 undergraduate students. Because of the difference in size between the schools, they also divide the fund raising and number of volunteers on site proportionally. Accordingly, Illinois Wesleyan's objective was \$10,000 dollars, and Illinois State had the goal of \$30,000 dollars for this year. The two schools are working toward being able to raise the \$70,000 that it takes to fund an entire house in Bloomington.

Besides the university's goal of funding an entire house, the goal that the three parties share is to foremost house a family. What's more is the bond between the two universities and McLean County affiliate that transcends the three separate communities. Because of the overwhelming support from the citizens of McLean County and faculty and students from both Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University, there are 12 more families that have safe housing. For this reason, the second place award for the successful partnership between the McLean County community and the two universities has been recognized for perfection of the "art of collaboration."

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