



Nancy Escobar
Illinois Wesleyan University
CIC/UPS Scholarship



When Nancy Escobar was admitted to [Illinois Wesleyan University](#) (IWU) it was an important milestone for her and her family. "I was very overwhelmed with joy, because it's something that my Mom never experienced," said Escobar a first-generation college student. "My Mom started crying. I started crying. My whole family was very excited for me."

[Click to see video!](#)



Escobar is from Wheeling, Illinois, and attended Wheeling High School. A part of a program for first-generation students, Escobar visited IWU during her junior year in high school. She liked that she would know her professors well, and she liked IWU's

record of student job placements after graduation. She has made the most of her college experience, joining clubs, playing on the tennis team in her freshman year and studying economics. She carries minors in sociology and Hispanic studies, and will begin her senior year this fall.

In high school, Escobar took classes in economics. She was inspired by a high school teacher and an IWU professor, who retired soon after Escobar started at the university. "I want to do something a little out of my comfort zone. So, economics was for me," she said. Her career aspiration is to work in the human resources field. Escobar hopes to get there through internships or through graduate school, possibly at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Escobar was awarded a CIC/UPS scholarship, thanks to a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) through the CIC/UPS Educational Endowment. She was recommended by Hannah Mesouani, director of IWU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Like many college students, Escobar funds her tuition expenses with grants and scholarship provided by the university, other scholarships, loans and earnings from jobs.

Escobar said she is proud of the CIC/UPS Scholarship, which has benefitted her for two semesters. "It actually does help a lot," she said. "When I saw how much my bill was, I was like, 'I don't think I can afford this.' Once the scholarship was added, it was a lot less than I thought." Because of the CIC/UPS Scholarship, Escobar can stay focused on her studies, and not have to work so much. She is grateful to donors who make scholarships possible.

Away from the classroom, Escobar works for a restaurant chain, is president of IWU's Spanish and Latinx student association. She is also a student mentor for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and is a member and founder of the first multicultural fraternity at IWU, Alpha Psi Lambda.