

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2011
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges approved the 2011 Online Education Plan, at the regular meeting Tuesday, January 18 at Olney Central College.

The District began offering online courses in 1997 and offers 135 online courses taught by 70 full-time and part-time faculty members. Online course enrollment totaled 2,569 in fiscal year 2005 and 4,916 in fiscal year 2010. Online learning is envisioned as an alternate delivery method utilized to achieve the overall mission of IECC.

Currently, the majority of online students are from within the local area. IECC continues to develop and provide additional online courses to accommodate scheduling and transportation needs of students within the IECC service area.

The Online Instruction Committee was established in 2003 and includes district-wide faculty and staff. The purpose of the committee is to assist, monitor, and evaluate the District online courses. Students new to online and/or hybrid courses are required to complete an introductory course, CIS 1104, Introduction to Online Learning, which prepares them for online course delivery. Once enrolled in an online and/or hybrid course, students have access to a wide range of support services including IECC's portal system Entrata.

A change in the transcript fee was approved. The \$10 application fee will be eliminated, and the transcript fee will be increased from \$3 to \$5, effective summer term 2011.

Frontier Community College has been asked to be a participant in a 13-county Rural Health Workforce Development program. The University of Illinois has been granted funds for the creation of the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN). ICAHN's objective is to develop and implement a Southeastern Illinois Rural Health Workforce Development Network.

Frontier, as a partner, will be involved in determining regional needs relating to rural health. It will also be expected to identify and recruit potential students for rural health careers and to provide community based educational experiences for health career students, and to establish a regional approach to recruitment and retention of health career students and for the development of a network strategic plan to accomplish these objectives. Frontier will then be asked to evaluate and monitor the plan to see its impact on the development of health careers recruitment and retention.

Other partners involved are the University of Illinois College of Medicine; Hamilton Memorial Hospital, McLeansboro, Illinois; Fairfield Memorial Hospital, Fairfield, Illinois; Lawrence County Public Health Department, Lawrenceville, Illinois; Illinois Department of Public Health, Springfield, Illinois;

The ICAHN contract will pay Frontier \$4,950 and the study will be completed by June 30, 2011. The grant will also pay for approved travel and other expenses above the \$4,950.

Affiliation agreements were approved with Wabash General Hospital in Mt. Carmel, the Medical Office of Dr. Boughan in Lawrenceville, and Jackson-Hewitt Tax Service in Sumner.

Stephen Questelle was employed as Workforce Education Instructor.

Special Assignments were approved for Hollie Kelly as Interim Department of Nursing, FCC, and Vicky Lemons as HRSA Grant Project Planner.

The retirement of Randall Questelle, Workforce Education Instructor, was accepted.

The resignation of Catherine Yockey, Nursing Instructor, was accepted.

All members of the Board of Trustees except Michael Correll were present at the January meeting.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, February 15, at 7 p.m. at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.