

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2002
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges acted on several personnel matters at the regular meeting, Tuesday, February 19, at Olney Central College.

Jessica Renae Crank was employed as Curriculum Development Specialist, Title III, at the District Office.

Full-time faculty members were reemployed for the 2002-2003 academic year, including 72 for continuation of tenure, ten for initial tenure, and 21 for non-tenure status.

Seven faculty members will be notified that they will not be reemployed for next academic year because of a reduction-in-force. Later re-employment of the seven depends mainly on the state funding situation.

Joyce Rusk submitted her resignation as Office Careers Instructor, effective May 10, 2002.

Two faculty members announced their intention to retire at the end of the current academic year: Charles Acree, Machine Shop Instructor, and Ed Fitch, Psychology Instructor.

A letter of resignation was received from trustee Shirley Kessler, Olney, effective February 20. The Board of Trustees has 60 days to appoint a trustee to fill the vacancy until the next regular trustee election.

A resolution was adopted to seek approval of the Illinois Community College Board to purchase the Sanyo Building, located adjacent to Frontier Community College in Fairfield. The cost of \$300,000 includes \$100,000 from the IECC District, \$50,000 from the Frontier Community College Foundation, \$50,000 from the City of Fairfield, and a gift of \$100,000 from Fairfield National Bank, the current owner of the building and property.

The Sanyo building contains 39,000 square feet and will allow for needed office space of the maintenance, student services and emergency preparedness staffs. It will also eliminate the need to build a maintenance building, which had been planned and included in the college's budget.

An increase in the tuition rate, from \$40 per credit hour to \$42 per credit hour, was approved, effective with the summer term of 2002. The revenue generated by the increase will be

needed to fill the budgetary gap caused by an overall reduction in state funding.

A management plan for the Big Creek Woods Memorial Nature Preserve was approved, as requested by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. The plan allows for removal of non-native species of plants on the preserve, located just south of Olney on State Highway 130. The preserve provides protection for 40 acres of upland, bottomland, and forest, a sandstone cliff community, a population of the state-endangered grass-leaved lily, and a quarter mile segment of the Big Creek stream.

Authorization was given for the Chief Executive Officer to terminate the lease for the Frontier Community College nursing facility on or before July 1. The nursing program will be housed in the new learning resource center/nursing facility at FCC, which is nearing completion.

The trustees approved a statement to the Illinois Community College Board of final completion of two IECC Protection, Health and Safety projects. The projects are asbestos abatement at the Main Hall and Student Union at Wabash Valley College, and renovations to the Fiber Optics Lab at Lincoln Trail College.

The bid of Illini Supply, Inc., Decatur, for \$35,692, was approved for shelving for the new library at FCC.

A comprehensive report on data and characteristics of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges for fiscal year 2000, as compared with other community college districts across the state, was presented. The data was gathered from reports of the Illinois Community College Board

The report compares the colleges on various types of financial and educational data. IECC continued to have the lowest per capita cost of any district in the state, \$207.45. The state's highest was \$378.50.

Illinois Eastern also led the state in number of Associate in Science degrees awarded, 384. The district also awarded 30 Associate in Arts degrees and 80 Associate in Liberal Studies and General Education degrees, for 494 total graduates in the transfer and general studies area.

IECC leads the state in educating its district residents by enrolling more than 32 students for each 1,000 people who live within the district.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.