FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 20, 2007
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District No. 529 approved the district's 2008-2012 Technology Plan at the regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, February 20, at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.

The plan reviews technology projects for fiscal year 2007 and outlines current and future technological needs. The goal of the plan is to improve technological services for faculty, staff and students within the projected budget over the next five years.

During the past fiscal year, the District's Information Technology department was able to upgrade the laptop computers of the Board of Trustees, develop on-line subscriptions for Lexis Nexis, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Facts on File and the Congressional Quarterly Researcher, purchase and install ten computer projection units, and purchase three Citrix servers. In addition, the IT department is making progress toward the replacement of network switches, the purchase of web servers, the purchase of PBX software upgrades, the upgrade of software licenses in Norton Anti-Virus, Ghost, Deep Freeze, and FileMaker Pro, and the bid and purchase of 200 computers to upgrade IECC equipment.

For FY2008, the Technology Plan sets forth the need to: maintain and upgrade administrative operations, including Banner; upgrade the District's network infrastructure and administrative file servers and the central network operating system; enhance the current telecommunications network; upgrade software licensing; and maintain and upgrade other technology resources including desktop computers and their replacement.

The Plan proposes to expend approximately $440,000 each year for the fiscal years 2008 to 2012.

A statement of final construction compliance was approved for the 12 Protection, Health and Safety, Capital Renewal, and state and locally-funded projects which were completed during the past year. The total construction cost for the 12 projects was $2,886,840. The statement on the completed projects will be submitted to the Illinois Community College Board.

The trustees approved changing the District's course management system from WebCT to ANGEL, starting March 15, 2007 and continuing through July 15, 2009. The course management system is utilized by the online faculty at IECC. Because of the growth of online education, the District has reached the limit of its license with WebCT. After reviewing several available systems, a committee decided to change to ANGEL, with an annual license fee of $25,000, which is less than the currently-used WebCT system.

An increase in the lab fee from $30 to $50 for students enrolled in Nursing 1201 was approved. The course has changed from an 8 semester hour course to a 10 semester hour course, making the fee increase necessary.

The District's affiliation agreement with McKendree College was extended, concerning teaching privileges for McKendree students in a Master of Science in Nursing Program offered by McKendree College.

This agreement will allow McKendree College RN students to analyze the roles and responsibilities of the nurse educators and to engage in health activities such as teaching on an individual or a group basis as arranged by IECC instructors. McKendree students will be graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, possess an active RN license, and be enrolled in a Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program.

The Board approved a two year extension of the District's contracts with Nursing Education Consultants (NEC) to administer the NCLEX Practical Nurse (PN) Review Course and the NCLEX Registered Nurse (RN) Review course for students in the nursing program.

The bid of Grace Computers, Round Rock, Texas, was accepted for 202 Desktop computers at a total cost of $136,915.39.

The bid of Tiger Direct, Naperville, Illinois, was accepted for 114 flat panel LCD monitors and 182 computer memory units at a total cost of $36,902.78.

The bid of Dell Computers, Round Rock, Texas, was accepted for 42 flat panel 17 inch LCD monitors with adj. stand at a total cost of $7,497.00.

The bid of Gateway, North Sioux City, South Dakota, was accepted for seven notebook computers at a total cost of $9,793.00.

The bid of CIM Audio Visual, Columbus, Indiana, was accepted for 27 projectors with ceiling mount kits at a total cost of $42,417.00.

Kristine Ginley was employed as Dean of the College at Frontier Community College, effective April 1.

Sarah Brooks was employed as Director of Enrollment Management at Wabash Valley College, effective March 12.

David Brown was employed as Program Manager for Mining in the Workforce Education Department, effective April 1, dependent upon continued grant funding.

Reemployment of full-time faculty for the 2007-2008 academic year was approved, including 81 for continuation of tenure, eight for initial tenure and 17 for non-tenure status.

The faculty seniority list for 2005-2006 was approved.

The Board informed Terry L. Bruce, Chief Executive Officer/Chief Operating Officer, that it intends to renew his two-year contract.

It was announced that Don Mersinger and Paul Schnarre, instructors in Agriculture Technologies at Wabash Valley College, will retire, effective May 31, 2007.

Jeremy Wolf, temporary faculty member, will be given honorable dismissal.

Ryan Roark will be dismissed because of a reduction-in-force.

Nedra Pershing will be dismissed as a non-tenured faculty member.

A memorandum of agreement was approved with the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Education Association IEA/NEA regarding the teaching assignment of one faculty member.

District enrollment is up 2 percent over one year ago.

All members of the Board of Trustees were present at the February meeting.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at Frontier Community College, Fairfield.

-- 30 –