

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 19, 2008**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District No. 529 approved the district's five-year Technology Plan at the regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, February 19, at Frontier Community College, Fairfield.

The plan reviews technology projects for fiscal year 2008 and outlines current and future technological needs. 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 purchase software licenses for Microsoft Desktop Bundle, Anti-Virus, Ghost, Deep Freeze, Backup Exec, Angel, and FileMaker Pro. The District purchased on-line subscriptions for Lexis Nexis, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Facts on File, ProQuest and the Congressional Quarterly Researcher, and ACT's Compass. In addition, The Information Technology department is making progress toward the purchase of additional network switches as needed, and plans to purchase a storage area network (SAN) to support a virtual server environment.

For FY2009, the Technology Plan sets forth the need to: maintain and upgrade IECC's 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 the purchase of 300 desktop computers. The District is also developing a computer replacement program under which approximately 25% of the District's computers will be replaced each year.

The Plan proposes to expend approximately \$540,000 in each year for the fiscal years 2009 to 2013.

The trustees accepted the Student Learning Assessment Report for calendar year 2007. When IECC was given ten-year reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2005, the HLC requested that the District prepare a report about the status of Student Learning Assessment due in four years. The District immediately began activity toward preparation of that report. In October 2006, the District was admitted to the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning, which had been created by the HLC to assist colleges to meet the new Student Learning Assessment criteria of the commission. Because the District had been admitted to the Academy, the assessment report will no longer be required.

However, as a member of the Academy, the District is involved on an annual basis in assessment activities for the four year period. As part of that annual review of assessment, the Faculty Assessment Team began a series of events reported in the Assessment Report.

In 2007, the Assessment Team performed the following assessment activities: Faculty Assessment Work Day, Assessment Academy Information and Planning Workshop, Assessment Academy Roundtable Event, Attendance of HLC Learning Commission in Chicago, Students' First Retreat, Accreditation and Assessment Newsletter, Preparation and Update of The Assessment Tool Kit.

In addition to these activities, the Faculty Assessment Team has continued with assessment of student learning at the classroom level, the course level, the program level, and the discipline level. The committee has also begun assessment of general education.

The trustees approved an increase in student tuition from \$57 to \$60 per semester hour, effective with the summer session of 2008. IECC has been notified by the Illinois Community College Board that the increase is required for the District to continue to be eligible for state equalization funding. Tuition must be 85% of the statewide average tuition and universal fees. The increase means that a current student carrying a load of 30 hours will see an annual tuition increase from \$1,710 to \$1,800, an annual increase of \$90. This represents a 5.25% increase in one year. Equalization funding is critical to the financial security of the District and tuition must be increased as required by law to have access to this funding.

A contract was approved with J & J Ventures, Inc., Effingham, for providing vending machine service at Frontier Community College.

A resolution was adopted for IECC to join other taxing bodies in Crawford County to intervene in a complaint filed with the Crawford County Board of Review to review the assessment of the Marathon Petroleum Company's Robinson Refinery, as determined by the Crawford County Supervisor of Assessment. An assessment hearing on the matter has been set for March 10, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. The college district will be represented at the hearing by WHITT LAW LLC.

The District's partnership agreement with CEFS Economic Opportunity Corporation will be renewed for three years, but may be cancelled by 30 days written notice. The agreement provides for the planning, integration and provision of human services to citizens of several counties in the IECC District. Under the agreement, IECC will work with CEFS to assist clients, make appropriate referrals, share and publish information about available services, target those with the greatest economic and social needs and coordinate the planning and implementation of programs.

The trustees agreed to join other taxing bodies in Jasper County to abate back taxes and interest on property owned by Sunshine Industries of Cleveland, Ohio. The building has been abandoned for several years. Sunshine Industries of Ohio has failed to pay property taxes due and subsequently has filed for

bankruptcy in Federal Court in the Northern District of Ohio. The taxing bodies propose to abate the unpaid taxes and interest and therefore get a release from the bankruptcy court so that a local business in Newton can purchase the property, tear down the building, and expand.

A statement of final construction compliance was approved for Protection, Health and Safety (PHS), Capital Renewal, and state and locally-funded projects which were completed during the past year. The statement, to be submitted to the Illinois Community College Board, is for a project in which the District expended \$230,973 in PHS bond funds for roof replacement of the Lincoln Trail College Gym.

An affiliation agreement was approved with Paris Community Hospital, Paris, Illinois for the OCC Phlebotomy Program.

Bids totaling \$122,940 were approved for District asbestos abatement, as follows:

LTC Base Bid: Environmental Assurance Co., Avon, Indiana, \$51,800.

OCC Base Bid: Envirotech Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, \$53,960.

WVC Base Bid: Envirotech Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, \$11,112.

WVC Alternate Bid: Envirotech Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, \$6,068.

Low bids meeting specifications and totaling \$210,686.84, were accepted for district-wide computer desktops, monitors and notebooks, as follows:

Grace Computers, Salt Lake City, Utah – 337 Desktop computers at a total cost of \$162,758.71.

Tiger Direct, Naperville, Illinois – 89 19-inch flat panel monitors at a total cost of \$15,153.13.

Lawrenceville Business Center, Lawrenceville, Illinois – one 19-inch flat panel monitor with adjustable stand at a total cost of \$223.

CDS Office Technologies, Evansville, Indiana – 26 Notebook computers at a total cost of \$32,552.

The Faculty Seniority List for 2007-2008 was approved.

The employment status of Kathy Wheeler was changed from Clerk-Receptionist to Office Assistant at Frontier Community College.

CEO Terry Bruce reviewed security measures being taken throughout the college district.

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 18, at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Trail College, Robinson.