

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 15, 2005
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees, at the regular monthly meeting, approved Illinois Eastern Community Colleges' Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, Tuesday, March 15, at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.

Purpose of the strategic plan is improvement of instruction, the betterment of student support services, revitalized facilities, and state-of-the-art equipment and teaching tools to maintain the college district in a position of leadership as the institution continues through the 21st century.

The number of area residents per thousand of population enrolled in credit and non-credit courses remains the highest in the state. The unit cost of instruction and other state community college statistics continue to reflect the efficiency of the district's operations. However, impending changes to the state's economy and also the state's community college equalization formula mandate that the district continues to seek new and better ways to meet the educational and cultural needs of the communities served by IECC.

The plan notes that change and flexibility are essential if the district is to continue to be effective in achieving its mission. To help ensure the continued viability of the district, it is essential that the four colleges, Workforce Education, and the District Office continue making improvements. Specific objectives have been established to meet the broad-based goals outlined in the plan.

The focus of the strategic plan is to increase student enrollment, persistence, retention, and contribute significantly to the economic growth of the region. In addition, because of the scarcity of state capital improvement funds, it is critically important that the district pursue local funding sources, such as protection, health, and safety bonds and college foundation support, to maintain the upkeep of the district's educational facilities. Ultimately, successful attainment of these goals will create increases in the district's revenue from tuition and state credit hour grant reimbursements.

The strategic plan will be used as an ongoing two-year guide with an annual review. The annual review will allow for an update on the progress toward achievement of the current year's goals, revisions to the upcoming year's goals, as well as extending the plan one additional year.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the new three-year contract with Illinois Eastern Community Colleges Education Association.

The district's Sexual Harassment Policy was amended to identify reporting requirements, designate responsible administrators to whom alleged sexual harassment would be reported and to clarify other parts of the policy.

The Campus Master Planning Statement Policy was changed to define long-range planning as being on a two-year cycle rather than a five-year cycle.

An agreement was approved to promote additional student online access through an IllinoisMentor Service. This will be an enhancement to the Illinois Student Assistant Commission's College Zone website, with a variety of useful information and tools, all of which are provided to students and colleges at no cost.

A Student Handbook for the Massage Therapy Program at Olney Central College was approved.

The Newton/Jasper County Enterprise Zone agreement was amended to include certain areas that were unintentionally omitted from the original agreement.

The budget with the Illinois Department of Corrections was amended to provide new budget figures for the Lincoln Trail College educational programs at Robinson Correctional Center and Lawrence Correctional Center. The changes will not substantially impact the educational programs.

An agreement was approved with First Robinson Savings Bank to place an automatic teller machine on the campus of Lincoln Trail College.

An agreement was approved for IECC's Workforce Education Department to conduct welding training for the Freeman United Coal Company.

The bid of Benz Microscope Optics Center, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was accepted for purchase of 12 microscopes for the Life Sciences Department at Olney Central College, at a total cost of \$9,924.

District administrators reviewed the summary and all five chapters of the Self-Study that has been prepared for the visit of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, to be held April 18, 19 and 20. The Higher Learning Commission will concentrate on five separate criteria and each of these criteria is covered by a chapter in the self-study. The criteria are: Mission and Integrity; Preparing for the Future; Student Learning and Effective

Teaching; Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge; Engagement and Service.

A plaque was presented to Andrea Pennington, in recognition of and appreciation for her year of service as student member of the Board of Trustees. She is a student at Olney Central College. A new student trustee for the coming year will be seated at the April regular meeting.

Nancy Simmons was employed as Medical Assistant Instructor, effective August 11.

Debra Rister was employed as Program Advisor, Allied Health, at Olney Central College.

Trudy Hemrich was employed as Bookkeeper in the District Office in Olney, effective March 31.

The resignation of Kristi Renshaw was accepted as Academic Support Specialist in the District Office, effective March 25.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at Olney Central College.