

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 21, 2006
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees approved Illinois Eastern Community Colleges' Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007 and 2008, at the regular monthly meeting, Tuesday, March 21, 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 college district 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 district's contract with the Illinois Department of Corrections was changed to provide for a four day week rather than the current five day week for the Lincoln Trail College educational programs at the Robinson and Lawrence Correctional Centers.

A new three year contract was approved with Clifton Gunderson Certified Public Accountants to conduct the district's annual financial audit and perform other district auditing services.

The following bids were accepted for projectors: United Visual, Inc., Itasca, IL, four Mitsubishi projectors for a total of \$8,744; CIM-Audio Visual, Evansville, IN, five Sharp projectors for a total of \$7,822.

The retirement of Louise Acree was accepted as Director of Public Information and Marketing at Wabash Valley College, effective May 31. She has been an employee of Wabash Valley College since its founding. A resolution was adopted recognizing her outstanding service to the college district.

Ashley Charleston was employed as Director of the Transition Center at Olney Central College.

Debra Rister was employed as Program Advisor for the Allied Health Grant at Olney Central College.

A resolution was adopted to name the Wabash Valley College Softball Field "Paul Schnarre Field," in recognition of Mr. Schnarre's successful tenure as coach of the WVC Women's Softball Team.

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

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. at Frontier Community College, Fairfield.