

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 21, 2013
Board of Trustees Meeting

Illinois Eastern Community Colleges updated Distance Delivery Education Plan for 2013 was approved by the Board of Trustees at the regular meeting Tuesday, May 21, at Frontier Community College, Fairfield.

Formerly named the Online Education Plan, its purpose is to provide an institutional strategy and structure to support and promote district-wide distance delivery opportunities. The plan outlines the required procedures, training, and support to assist faculty with distance delivery courses and program development.

Distance delivered education at Illinois Eastern Community Colleges involves any formal approach to student learning in which the majority of instruction occurs while the instructors and learners interact through various means of technology.

IECC has been offering online courses since 2001. Currently, approximately 150 online courses are offered, taught by 60 full-time and part-time faculty. More than 250 online courses have been submitted for approval and development. A total of 386 sections of online courses were taught in fiscal year 2012.

A new IECC mission statement was approved, as follows: “Our mission is to deliver exceptional education and services to improve the lives of our students and to strengthen our communities.”

A new academic freedom policy was adopted, as follows:

“Illinois Eastern Community Colleges recognizes the principles of academic freedom and is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning. In the development of knowledge, research endeavors and creative activities, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges’ faculty, students, and staff are free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism.

“IECC shall likewise require the exercise of responsible judgment on the part of the District’s faculty and staff as they exercise academic freedom in accomplishing the mission of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. Faculty is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects, but should be careful not to introduce teaching matters which have no relation to their fields. Faculty and students must be able to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence and to participate as responsible citizens in community affairs.”

The IECC employment policy was revised to make clear that a letter of resignation or a letter of retirement becomes effective upon being received by their supervisor.

The vacation leave policy was revised concerning accrual of vacation time. When an employee is off on unpaid leave or Workers Compensation leave, the district's policy is not to allow the accrual of vacation time.

The Radiography Program was revised to include a policy on harassment and bullying.

Several changes to the OCC Nursing Program Handbook were approved.

Health informatics Technology Program fees were approved to reflect the actual cost of the certification exam.

Fifteen affiliation agreements were approved dealing with Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assistant, Electronic Medical Records, Emergency Preparedness, and Associate Degree Nursing Programs.

Mike Carpenter was employed as Men's Head Basketball Coach at Wabash Valley College, effective June 4.

Amy Johnson was employed as Program Assistant, Workforce Education/Carterville, effective July 1.

Kaitlyn McKinney was employed as Office Assistant for the Business Office at Wabash Valley College, effective May 28.

Megan Young was employed as Office Assistant for EPM, Workforce Education/Fairfield, effective May 22.

Lora Smith was employed as Administrative Assistant for Student Services at Wabash Valley College, effective June 3.

Employment status of Tiffany Cowger was changed from TRiO Upward Bound Assistant Director, District Office/OCC, to TRiO Upward Bound Director, District Office/OCC, effective June 1.

Employment status of Gina Hutton was changed from TRiO Talent Search Assistant Director, District Office, to TRiO Talent Search Director, District Office, effective June 1.

Employment status of Brandon Weger was changed from TRiO Upward Bound Assistant Director, District Office/LTC, to TRiO Upward Bound Director, District Office/LTC, effective June 1.

Employment status of Leslie Scott was changed from EPM Technician, Workforce Education/Fairfield, to Assistant Director EPM, Workforce Education/Fairfield, effective May 22.

Employment status of Thomas Wain Davis was changed from TRiO Upward Bound Counselor, to Director, TRiO Student Support Services, effective July 15.

Employment status of Jerry Booker was changed from Temporary Full-Time Groundskeeper, to Full-Time Groundskeeper, Olney Central College, effective May 22.

Resignation ratification was approved for Elaine Creadore, Office Assistant, Educational Talent Search, District Office, effective May 9.

Resignation ratification was approved for Lisa Ewing, Office Assistant for the Business Office at Wabash Valley College, effective May 4.

Resignation ratification was approved for Steve Berkemeier, Program Director, Emergency Preparedness and Industrial Quality Management, Workforce Education/Fairfield, effective May 16.

Resignation ratification was approved for Sherrie Hemrich, Groundskeeper, Olney Central College, effective May 22.

Retirement ratification was approved for Kathy Harris, Dean of Instruction at Lincoln Trail College, effective September 1.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, June 18, at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Trail College, Robinson.