

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 17, 2006**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**

An Environmental Scan for Illinois Eastern Community Colleges for fiscal year 2007 was approved by the Board of Trustees, at the regular meeting, Tuesday, October 17, at Olney Central College.

To do accurate strategic planning, the District prepares the environmental scan utilizing historical data to forecast future internal and external needs for college programs and services. The data assist the District in developing the Strategic Plan, completing the Program Review process, and developing the Institutional Effectiveness Plan, the Career and Technical Education Plan, and the On-Line Education Plan.

A number of elements were selected for scanning, including District population, District high school graduates, Indiana border county high school graduates, credit hours generated, equalized assessed valuation, per capita personal income, and many others.

Among other details, the plan shows the following about the IECC District:

1. Population is declining in the twelve county college district.
2. Equalized assessed valuation is increasing slightly.
3. Reimbursable credit hour grants show steady increases.
4. Future revenue increases will come from tuition increases and state funding.
5. District income is lower than the state-wide average.
6. Farm employments are declining, manufacturing employments are relatively level, and educational services employment show steady increases.
7. Enrollment of both full and part-time students increased last year.
8. There has been a 35% increase in the number of completers comparing FY1983 to FY2006.

The FY2007 Environmental Scan indicates that the colleges must continue to offer educational programs and services that prepare students to meet the demands of an ever changing market place. By doing so, the District will benefit the local economy, which in turn, will better serve the residents of the District.

A resolution was adopted to change the date and location for a public hearing on the district's estimated tax levy, to be certified in 2006 and payable in 2007. The hearing

will be at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel, Tuesday, November 21 from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The date and location were changed because the notification publication was not done within the required time frame in one county in the district. The estimated tax levy is \$3,530,000, plus an extension for bond and interest payments of \$1,402,763. The hearing was originally scheduled for Olney Central College on October 17, 2006.

Affiliation agreements were approved for Olney Central College for an agency agreement with St. Anthony's Hospital in Effingham for its Medical Office Assistant Program and Administrative Information Technology Program, and with for an agency agreement with Flora Healthcare in Flora for its Associate Degree Nursing Program for all four colleges in the IECC district.

Joint Agreements for education cooperation were approved with Lakeland College in Mattoon and Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. Under the agreements the colleges agree to accept students in certain programs that are not offered by their home district.

Two used mini-vans were purchased for Frontier Community College, with the prices including trade-in of two older vehicles. A 2006 Dodge Caravan will be purchased from Max Dye Inc., Salem for \$12,500.00. A 2006 Chevrolet Uplander will be purchased from Eagleson's, Olney, for \$11,196.00.

Sherrie Hemrich was employed as Groundskeeper at OCC.

Resignations were accepted from Greg Goldman, Bookstore Manager at WVC, effective October 13, and from Ida McVaigh, Youthful Offender Counselor in the LTC educational programs at the Robinson and Lawrence Correctional Centers, effective December 1.

The retirement of Judy Burroughs as Director of Cosmetology at OCC was announced, effective November 1.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, November 21, at 7 p.m. at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.