

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2009
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges certified the district's tax levies for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, at the regular meeting Tuesday, October 20, at Lincoln Trail College, Robinson. The action followed a public hearing held before and during the meeting. The levies are for the education and building fund, outstanding bond issue and tort liability, workmen's compensation, audit, unemployment, Medicare and other insurance.

The IECC tax rate for FY2011 is estimated at 39.60 cents per \$100 in equalized assessed valuation. The Certificate of Tax Levy is filed on or before the last Tuesday in December with the county clerk in each of the 12 counties in which part of the IECC district is located.

A resolution was adopted to comply with a General Accounting Standards Board requirement that under GASB guidelines, taxes levied for the year 2009 will be collected late in calendar year 2010 and that 100% of the levy will be allocated to fiscal year 2011.

Action was taken to certify that IECC has complied with provisions of the Truth in Taxation Law.

The current IECC Policy to Address a Complaint is contained in two sections of the policy manual. Section 500.18 deals with the current Student Appeal Policy, but this appeal process is also addressed in Policy 100.16. During the Higher Learning Commission visit for accreditation in 1995, the visiting team questioned the District's complaint policy and a section was added. Over the intervening years, it has become clear that the Policy to Address a Complaint contained in 100.16 is the appropriate language to use. Action was taken to eliminate Student Appeal Policy 500.18, and that the Policy to Address a Complaint contained in Policy 100.16 will be the Board's policy in the future.

Since 1994, IECC has had a policy that guarantees the transferability of IECC courses to Illinois colleges and universities if a student completed a degree at one of the IECC colleges. The Board added the Associate of Science and Arts Degree transfer degree educational guarantee.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has approved a Federal Disaster Grant to be administered by Illinois Eastern Community Colleges. Purpose of the \$96,000 grant is to provide financial assistance to the District for the District's operation and management of its Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The District's SBDC will serve as the focal point for the coordination of Federal, State, Local, University, College, and private resources to aid small businesses in the event of a disaster.

The grant funds will be used to counsel and train small business owners, managers, and prospective owners in how to deal with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering, technical, and other concerns following any disaster. The focus of this grant is intended to proactively

educate and train those businesses directly impacted by the “Presidential Declaration of Disaster Areas of 2008” and to help prepare these businesses for future disasters. The trustees approved acceptance of the DCEO grant and consulting agreement.

For several years IECC has had an articulation agreement with Lakeview College of Nursing of Danville, Illinois. This articulation agreement assures IECC students admission to the Lakeview College of Nursing if they complete the course requirements of the articulation agreement.

Lakeview has made changes in the curriculum in their RN to Bachelor’s in Science of Nursing Degree (BSN). Beginning with Spring Semester 2010, students who have graduated from IECC with an RN degree will only be required to take two additional general education courses beyond the IECC Associate Degree in Nursing. Those courses are Statistics and a humanities elective. The trustees approved the revised articulation agreement with Lakeview College of Nursing.

The trustees adopted a resolution in support of funding of the Monetary Award Program (MAP). This program is operated by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, a state agency. IECC students have used the MAP grant to cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the colleges. In FY2008 more than 1,048 students received over \$984,000 in benefits. During the last meeting of the General Assembly, the budget was reduced to 50% of what was required to fund requests from students and the MAP grant was shorted by more than \$200,000,000. Students were granted MAP financial awards to cover the cost during the first semester of this school year, but funds have now been exhausted. On October 14, 2009 the Governor and the legislative leaders met in Springfield and agreed that they would budget an additional \$200,000,000 to the MAP grant. There was also agreement that there are no funds available and the Governor and the legislative leaders committed themselves to find funding.

The IECC District currently purchases electric power for its four colleges from three different electrical suppliers. Ameren-CIPS provides electric power to Lincoln Trail College and Olney Central College. Frontier Community College’s electric power needs are supplied by the Wayne White Electrical Cooperative. Wabash Valley College is supplied by Mt. Carmel Public Utility. Under Illinois Commerce Commission regulations, the District is allowed to purchase the commodity portion of its electric power needs on the open market, where applicable.

Ameren-CIPS has created Ameren Energy Marketing (AEM) as a non-regulated subsidiary to compete for electric sales both within and outside of the Ameren area. AEM has proposed an electric purchase agreement to the District at substantial savings from the District’s current electric power costs under bundled rates. AEM has proposed supplying electric power at a cost that would save the District approximately \$94,000 annually. IECC will buy the power supply portion of its needs from AEM, and pay Ameren, the utility, for delivery. The Board of Trustees approved a 24 month electrical purchase power agreement with AEM.

A two-year contract was renewed with RidgeviewTel to allow the company access to the Wabash Valley College radio tower and installation of a wireless network at WVC, at a rate of \$150 per month. This will allow RidgeviewTel to continue to provide wireless internet service to residents of the city of Mt. Carmel and to much of the outlying area.

An increase from \$110 to \$120 per semester was approved for a uniform fee for students in the IECC Diesel Program.

A contract was approved in which the IECC District, in cooperation with school districts in Clay, Jasper, Richland and North Wayne Counties operates a counseling service for pregnant and parent teens. Under the program, District staff visits the school and counsels pregnant and parenting teens at school buildings on a monthly, bi-weekly or weekly basis depending on the needs of the student and the school. The District contracts with the school districts and receives a grant of \$8,000 for this service.

Affiliation agreements were approved for the Emergency Preparedness Emergency Response Training Program with Crawford Memorial Hospital in Robinson, Clay County Hospital in Flora, Lawrence County Memorial Hospital in Lawrenceville, and Wabash General Hospital in Mt. Carmel.

An affiliation agreement was approved with the Office of Dr. Rachel Winters in Lawrenceville, for the Medical Assistant Program.

An affiliation agreement for the Pharmacy Technician Program was approved with the CVS Pharmacy in Newton.

An affiliation agreement for the Medical Office Assistant and Administrative Information Technology Program was approved with Clay County Medical Clinic in Flora.

An affiliation agreement was approved with Renal Life Link, Inc., Vincennes Dialysis in Vincennes, Indiana.

The resignation of Ada Fleearty was accepted as Student Advantage Network Counselor, District Office, effective October 24.

Two retirements were announced, to be effective January 1, 2010. John Highhouse will retire as Program Director, Telecommunications Training, Workforce Education. Janie Lake will retire as Administrative Assistant at Frontier Community College.

Enrollment in the IECC District is up 7% over this time one year ago.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, November 17, at 7 p.m. at Olney Central College.