

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2009
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community College District No. 529 approved the Environmental Scan for IECC for fiscal year 2010, at the regular meeting, Tuesday, November 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 assists 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. The District's population, including the number of high school graduates, continues to decline approximately one-half of one-percent per year.
2. Online student enrollments have increased steadily since the District began offering courses in this format in fiscal year 2002.
3. Dual credit offerings at area high schools continue to be a source of state reimbursable credit hours.
4. Equalized assessed valuation continues to increase only slightly.
5. State support continues to decline as a percent of the District's budget.
6. FY 2009 and FY 2010 unemployment rates have exceeded 10% in several District counties.
7. Per capita personal income has not increased at a rate comparable to other Illinois residents.
8. Reimbursable credit hour grant generation is forecast to remain steady or increase only slightly within the next several years.
9. Increases in student tuition/fees should continue to be both incremental and small.
10. The trend for manufacturing employments is relatively level, but recent data indicate a steady decline. However, manufacturing employments represent the largest single block of employments within the District.

11. From 1993 to 2009, male enrollments have decreased while female enrollments have increased with a gross gender change of about 41.3%. This change parallels state and national trends that show that beginning in 1992, females earned more Bachelor's Degrees than males. By 2005, females were being awarded 58% of all Bachelor's degrees, and the increase continues.

12. The American Association of Community Colleges identifies registered nursing, law enforcement, licensed practical nursing, radiography, and computer technologies as the five hottest community college programs.

The FY2010 Environmental Scan indicates that the district's Colleges must continue to offer educational programs and services that prepare students to meet the demands of an ever changing market place.

An increase of \$9.00 in tuition and universal fees was approved to be effective Summer Term of 2010. The increase of tuition and universal fees from \$67.00 to \$76.00 is necessary to qualify for state equalization funding. To be eligible for equalization funding, qualified districts must maintain a per credit hour rate that is equal to 85% of the state-wide average, which is \$88.10 for fiscal year 2010.

Two projects were approved to be paid for with carryover funds from the district's Phase IX Protection, Health and Safety bond issue of December, 2007. PHS bonds totaling \$3.675 million were approved in 2007. Because of the nature of the bids on the previous projects funded with this bond issue and because the projects were completed efficiently with minimal change orders, excess PHS funds are available to be carried over and additional projects completed.

The new projects approved Tuesday along with total estimated cost are:

1. Roof Replacement at District Office: \$129,200.
2. Roof Replacement at WVC Main Hall Penthouse: \$8,900.

The applications add a 10% contingency fee of \$13,800 and architects-engineer compensation of \$15,200, for a total cost of \$167,100.

Project Applications and Resolutions approving the projects will be forwarded to the Illinois Community College Board for approval.

The 2009 Employee Satisfaction Survey was presented and discussed by the trustees. Overall, the district-wide totals resulted in 80.08% showing satisfaction with their employment and 90.4% showing no dissatisfaction.

IECC currently leases space from the City of Marissa and instructs at that facility. A new mining operation is opening in Venedy, Illinois in Washington County. IECC has been asked to occupy the instructional portion of a former school building purchased by an association of ten power generating or power distribution companies. IECC would be the principal trainer of miners who would work at the mining facility being constructed.

The district is currently paying \$2,000 monthly for the Marissa facility, which the district will vacate, and the Prairie State Generating Company has offered to provide a training facility to the District at no cost except for payment of utility expenses. The trustees approved the license agreement for this new facility.

The trustees approved a lease for the existing Local Workforce Investment Area 23 facility at 214 East Main Street, Olney, for services within the Area 23 region. The lease is \$1,200 per month from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 and will be paid from federal FWIA funds.

A lab science fee of \$10 per course was approved for students in Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Physics, and Chemistry classes.

Several changes were made in the district's existing tuition waiver policy, providing that students be required to pay for all hours of education. Revisions were also approved to the district's nursing student progression/remediation policy.

A resolution was adopted to provide for changes in the Lawrence County Enterprise Zone. The resolution expands the boundaries of the Enterprise Zone and extends the expiration date from 2010 to 2020. Taxes are abated for certain types of construction within the enterprise zone boundaries.

Action was taken to purchase all multifunction printers and copiers from the National Joint Purchasing Alliance (NJPA), a joint purchasing agency serving education, government and other non-profit agencies. The agreement provides for the district to purchase printers, copiers and service from Miller Office Equipment at a reduced cost.

An articulation agreement was approved between IECC (Wabash Valley College) for IECC students graduating from either of the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degrees - Agriculture Technology/Production or Agriculture Technology/Business to transfer into the Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture at MSU. Under this agreement, WVC students enrolled in either the Agriculture Technology/Production or Agriculture Technology/Business AAS degrees who wish to pursue the MSU Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture after graduation will be able to transition the majority of their IECC courses and programs to Murray State University.

Three affiliation agreements for the Basic Nurse Assistant Certificate were approved, with the following agencies: Newton Rest Haven, Newton, Illinois; United Methodist Village, Lawrenceville, Illinois; Clay County Hospital, Flora, Illinois.

The trustees took action to restore Thanksgiving Day as a paid holiday for full-time non-faculty employees of the district.

Andrea Pampe was employed as Student Advantage Network Counselor, effective December 8.

The employment status of Deana Palmer was changed from Director of Cosmetology to Program Director of Cosmetology at Olney Central College, effective November 18.

The employment status of Amanda Musgrave was changed from Clerk/Receptionist to Administrative Assistant at Frontier Community College, effective January 4.

The employment status of Kathy Wheeler was changed from Office Assistant to Administrative Assistant at Frontier Community College, effective January 4.

Resignations were accepted from Richard Jones, Custodian at Lincoln Trail College, effective January 9, and from Kerry Pinkstaff, Custodian/Groundskeeper at Wabash Valley College, effective November 6.

District-wide IECC enrollment is up 4% over enrollment at this time one year ago.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, December 8, at 7 p.m. at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.