

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 18, 2008
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District No. 529 approved the Environmental Scan for IECC for fiscal year 2009, at the regular meeting, Tuesday, November 18, at Lincoln Trail College, Robinson.

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.
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.

The FY2009 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. By doing so, the District will benefit the local economy, which in turn, will better serve the residents of the District.

The IECC Evaluation Policy was amended to provide for evaluating new employees 90 days after their initial employment, in addition to the present annual evaluation. The policy also clarifies that student workers need not be formally evaluated, but should be monitored during their employment.

The Biennial Review Report relative to the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act was approved, showing IECC to be in compliance with all aspects of the Act.

The trustees approved a master purchasing agreement with Dell Computers to allow IECC the most competitive pricing, with a review each six months with possible price reductions if Dell suppliers

have reduced the price of components in the computer. The agreement is not exclusive and allows the District to purchase equipment from other suppliers, but will allow purchase of computers from Dell at substantially reduced costs from prevailing market prices.

The Board approved a proposal of Marathon Petroleum Company for development of a wildlife habitat area at Lincoln Trail College. The proposed habitat improvement would include the placement of nesting boxes and create a wetlands area which would cover approximately three acres. Marathon would capture water from the existing Miller Lake at times of overflow and the actual wetlands would be approximately 1.5 feet deep. Marathon will utilize LTC's Horticulture program to grow plant species to be planted in the wetlands (3,000-4,000 plants) and would plant Bald Cypress trees in the wetlands.

In addition, acreage would be placed into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for planting of native grasses. This grassland area will improve conservation and enhance wildlife habitat. Marathon proposes also to include a park-like setting by adding additional trees, by clean-up of the area, adding picnic tables, and a walking path.

Entire cost of the program will be paid for by funds from the Wetland Development Program, Marathon (\$5,000), The National Wildlife Federation, and Ducks Unlimited. The LTC Foundation will also be involved in the project and has indicated its support.

The Board of Trustees accepted a deed to the McCoy building in downtown Robinson. The building is currently owned by Mrs. Jane McCoy, widow of W. "Red" McCoy, who operated a local welding and heavy equipment repair business. Mr. and Mrs. McCoy began their business shortly after World War II, built a substantial building and over the years added to the structure as their business expanded. Following the death of Mr. McCoy, the business was closed and is now vacant and Mrs. McCoy wishes to deed the brick building to Illinois Eastern Community Colleges/Lincoln Trail College. LTC President Beverly Turkal and George Woods of the IECC Workforce Development Program have been working to develop a welding program that will be housed in this structure.

Cora Weger, Director of the Student Advantage Network, was present with students in the 2008 Leadership Class. The 2008 class project, to increase public awareness of recycling, was reviewed.

The employment status of Jervaise McGlone was changed from Interim Associate Dean of Adult and Continuing Education, to Associate Dean of Adult and Continuing Education at Frontier Community College.

The retirement of Terry Russell, Workforce Education Instructor, was announced, effective December 31, 2008.

The Lincoln Trail College Foundation has agreed to purchase two 2008 Ford 15 passenger Econoline Vans which will be leased to Lincoln Trail College for totals of \$13,868 and \$15,368,

including 4.5% interest. The college is given the right to purchase the vehicles for an additional \$1.00 each, to be paid with the final payment.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, December 9, at 7 p.m. at Olney Central College.