

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2007
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District No. 529 adopted a resolution approving issuance of Public Health Safety Bonds in the amount of \$3,680,000 at the monthly meeting, Tuesday, November 20, at Frontier Community College, Fairfield.

The approval follows a Bond Issuance Hearing, which was conducted Tuesday, October 16, at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.

The bonds will be used to finance the following projects:

Storm Water Remediation (WVC), \$121,000.

Plumbing & Electrical Surveys (WVC, OCC, LTC, FCC), \$38,500.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance (LTC, OCC, WVC), \$467,800.

Heating and Air Conditioning Replacement and Upgrades (LTC, OCC), \$1,149,500.

Roof Replacement (LTC, OCC), \$471,800.

Combustible Wall Panel Replacement (LTC), \$150,300.

Bathroom Upgrades to meet codes (LTC), \$90,800.

Asbestos Abatement/Replacement (LTC, OCC, WVC, FCC), \$515,900.

Site Lighting upgrade (OCC), \$198,500.

Door & Window Replacement and Repair (LTC, OCC), \$219,900.

Carpet Replacement (WVC), \$32,700.

Install/Expand Energy Management Systems (FCC/WVC), \$173,700.

The Preliminary Official Statement, which sets forth the maturities, interest rates, yields and amounts was approved, along with a Continuing Disclosure Certificate and Agreement, a Bond Purchasing Agreement, and authorization for the District's architects, Image Architects, Inc., Carbondale, Illinois, to proceed with the PHS bond projects.

An Environmental Scan for IECC for fiscal year 2008 was approved.

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.
8. There has been a 49.5% increase in the number of completers comparing FY1983 to FY2007.

The 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 settlement agreement was approved after negotiations by taxing bodies over the assessed valuation of the Ameren Energy Generating Company property in Jasper County. Under the agreement, Ameren and the taxing bodies and the assessing officials have agreed that the equalized assessed value for the Ameren facility will be \$123,000,000. For 2007 the assessed valuation will be \$125,000,000 and for 2008 the assessed value will be \$127,000,000. Commencing in tax year 2009 and thereafter, the Ameren property will be assessed at its fair cash value and by agreement 59.23% of the improvements at the Jasper County facility will be classified and assessed as real property.

The Lincoln Trail College Foundation has agreed to purchase a 2007 Ford 12 passenger van which will be leased to Lincoln Trail College for a total of \$18,729 including 4.5% interest.

For several years, Frontier Community College operated a classroom facility in cooperation with the Flora Chamber of Commerce. When the Flora Chamber decided to close the local office, Frontier was left without an education facility and has been utilizing local churches and other locations to provide classes to Flora and Clay County. The Chamber of Commerce and Frontier have agreed to reopen a Chamber office at 122 N. Main St., Flora, and share the costs of the facility.

An updated Online Education Plan was approved to provide increased direction and leadership for online instruction, including the establishment of goals, strategies and objectives to achieve the District's vision of providing high quality online courses, programs and services that respond to the needs of students who desire an alternative delivery method for learning. The District has been offering online courses since 1997. Currently, IECC offers approximately 105 online courses taught by 70 full-time and part-time faculty.

A dual credit agreement was approved between IECC/Wabash Valley College and the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center, Evansville, Indiana. Currently the Center offers a Diesel Service Technology Program which will articulate with the Diesel Equipment Technology Program at Wabash Valley College. This agreement will expand student access to programs at Wabash Valley College in its Diesel Equipment Technology Program.

Affiliation agreements were approved with Weber Medical Clinic, Olney, for the Phlebotomy Program, and with Fairfield Memorial Hospital for the Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic Training Program.

Plumbing upgrades throughout the IECC District were previously approved by the Board of Trustees, to be paid from Protection Health and Safety funds. During the construction, the contractor found that major additional repairs are required at Olney Central College. The trustees Tuesday approved a revised total project budget for district-wide plumbing upgrades of \$173,317, including \$106,117 at OCC, to be paid with excess funds from previously approved PHS projects. The revised budget for plumbing repairs will be submitted to the Illinois Community College Board for its approval.

The trustees were shown a video on the new Electrical Distribution Program at Frontier Community College.

An enrollment report shows district enrollment up 3% from one year ago.

Laurie Perry was employed as Office Assistant in the Small Business Development Corporation, contingent upon continued grant funding.

A temporary faculty contract was approved for Dale Harris for the Electrical Distribution Program for the 2007-2008 academic year, effective August 15, 2007.

A temporary contract was approved for Lovell Vallette for the Nursing faculty for the Spring 2008 Semester, effective January 7, 2008.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, December 11, at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Trail College, Robinson.