

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2006
Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees of Illinois Eastern Community Colleges District No. 529 adopted the new IECC Report on Assessment, at the monthly meeting, Tuesday, November 21, at Wabash Valley College, Mt. Carmel.

Prior to last year's Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Visit, IECC faculty and staff began the implementation of assessment of student learning. By the time of the arrival of the HLC team in April of 2005, IECC faculty and staff had made significant progress toward implementing student assessment.

Following the HLC visit, Chris Cantwell, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Support Services, and Kathy Pampe, Associate Dean of Career and Technical Education, implemented a plan to enhance a program of assessment.

With the Board's support, money was set aside for the hiring of a team of faculty members to lead the student assessment efforts. The faculty team is led by Amie Mayhall, and she is assisted by a faculty member on each campus. They are Nixie Hnetkovsky, FCC; Travis Matthews, LTC; Kelly Payne, OCC; and Mark Pettigrew, WVC.

A report of IECC's assessment efforts has been prepared by this team and was presented to the Board for its review and acceptance. The report sets forth the following accomplishments:

- Establishment of a District-wide Curriculum Discipline committee.
- Establishment of a Career and Technical Education committee.
- Updated and Approved Syllabi accessible to all faculty and staff on the Intranet.
- Assessment Plans and Results were made accessible on the Intranet.
- Formation of a General Education Assessment committee.
- Development of an Institutional Effectiveness Plan for Institutional Assessment.
- Completion by Faculty of a Classroom Assessment Inventory reporting form.

A web-based Assessment ToolKit provided an accessible channel for feedback and assessment of student learning.

A Student Learning Outcomes survey was developed and administered to over 3,000 students.

Career and Technical Education Advisory Councils were revised and upgraded.

Faculty developed syllabi which included measurable student learning outcomes.

Directors of the Libraries developed a program to meet student needs and improve student learning.

Levels of assessment include classroom assessment, course assessment, program assessment, curriculum discipline assessment, general education outcome, and institutional effectiveness to gauge the overall experience of education at IECC.

Harry Benson, retiring President of Wabash Valley College, was honored with a special meal and program preceding the meeting, attended by a number of invited guests. Short talks were given by several of the guests and he was presented with a number of gifts.

The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution outlining his accomplishments in the field of education and designating him "President Emeritus of Wabash Valley College with all the rights, privileges and obligations pertaining thereto."

Benson served as President of WVC for 21 years, since September 1, 1985. He will retire on January 31, 2007.

Following a public hearing preceding the meeting, the district's tax levies were certified for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007. The levies are for the educational, operations & maintenance, governmental employees tort immunity act, Social Security and Medicare, financial audit, and worker's compensation and unemployment insurance funds. An additional amount is levied for the outstanding bond issue.

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.

The IECC local tax rate is estimated at 41.11 cents per \$100 in equalized assessed valuation.

A 2 + 2 Nursing Program Articulation Agreement was approved with Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Purpose of this articulation agreement is to provide a mechanism whereby individuals graduating with the degree of Associate in Applied

Science in Nursing from Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Olney Central College, will be eligible to complete the requirements for a B.S. degree in Nursing for Registered Nurses at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

A contract was signed with Stericycle Inc., Bannockburn, Illinois, for disposal of medical waste generated by IECC's Nursing Program, at a charge of \$45.05 for a quarterly pickup of medical waste.

A resolution was adopted to continue the tax abatement on real property located within the Robinson Enterprise Zone. The abatement only relates to new improvements. The improvement project must be located within the District, and the abatement cannot exceed the amount attributable to the improvements, and is only allowed for commercial and industrial property. Abatement will be at the rate of 100% of taxes for a period of five years.

An affiliation agreement was approved with Lawrence County Memorial Hospital, Lawrenceville, for the Phlebotomy Program.

An agreement was approved for Lincoln Trail College to lease a 2005 Chrysler minivan from the LTC Foundation at a total cost of \$16,697.19, including interest.

A bid from Sprint, Lenexa, Kansas, was accepted for a two year contract as IECC's long distance telephone service provider for an estimated annual charge of \$14,331.60.

The bid of Eagleson Automotive Center, Olney, was accepted for a 2006 Chevy Express 15-passenger van for \$19,337.00.

Deana Palmer was employed as Director of Cosmetology at Olney Central College.

All members of the Board of Trustees were present at the November meeting.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday, December 12, at 7 p.m. at Frontier Community College, Fairfield.