

ICCHE NEWSLETTER

ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON CONTINUING HIGHER EDUCATION

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College

Christopher Wilkerson
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FALL CONFERENCE—JOIN US 9/28/07 AT STARVED ROCK STATE PARK

The entire ICCHE membership is invited to join together with colleagues throughout the state for the annual Fall Conference at Starved Rock State Park's Lodge and Conference Center near Utica, IL on Friday, September 28, 2007 from 8:30 AM to 12:15 PM.

Members are also invited to meet the executive board and network with peers at the Thursday evening, September 27, informal "Coyote* and Conversation" gathering at 5 PM at the Back Door Lounge, adjacent to the dining Room at the Lodge.

At Friday's Conference, we will learn about Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) grant opportunities, and get updates about the exciting happenings at the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.

The conference is FREE, and includes continental breakfast and box lunch. However, attendees are asked to register in advance, and indicate whether they will also attend the Thursday evening gathering.

Register online (see ICCHE's



Starved Rock State Park

web page, www.icche.org, for instructions) or phone 618-536-7751.

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FEBRUARY 14-15, 2008—SAVE THE DATE ICCHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Join ICCHE for the 2008 Annual conference over Valentine's Day, February 14-15 for an exciting, stimulating learning experience, AND plan to stay at the Chicago City Centre for a romantic weekend getaway. Rates are just \$109 per night, for ICCHE attendees. (Rooms normally go for \$225!)

The 2008 annual conference will offer informative, stimulating presentations. The keynote address will



be given by Roberts Jones from the U.S. Department of Education and Workforce Policy.

There will be a series of panel

presentations exploring the theme of "The Evolving Audience of Tomorrow: Programs, Teaching and Re-Training Across Generations."

Note: FREE annual membership to new members who attend the annual conference!

Make your reservations now!

Chicago City Centre
300 East Ohio St
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 787-6100

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

As we look forward to the busy fall season, remember to add to your calendar the IC CHE conference at Starved Rock on Friday, September 28 from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm.

At the meeting, we will have a presentation on Higher Education Cooperation Act (HECA) grant opportunities as well as updates from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

This Conference is available to all ICCHE members free of charge. (A few years ago, it was only open to IC CHE Institutional Representatives, but

that is no longer the case.) It is a wonderful professional development opportunity, as well as an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the fall season at Starved Rock.

If you are planning to arrive at Starved Rock on Thursday, the day before the Conference, you are also invited to join the ICCHE Board members at approximately 5 pm for "Coyote and Conversation" a time set aside for simply relaxing and getting to know one another a little better.

Even though this conference is free, we ask that you register for Friday morning. (No registration is required for "Coyote and Conversation." on Thursday evening.) More



Carol Reiseck, PhD
Concord University Chicago
ICCHE President

details regarding the Fall Conference are available in this newsletter.

See you at Starved Rock!

Carol

"...a wonderful professional development opportunity..."

NORTHERN REGION SYMPOSIUM HELD APRIL 27, 2007

Pathways to Leadership

On April 27, the ICCHE **Northern Region** held its 2007 workshop at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, IL, with presentations on the theme *Pathways to Leadership*.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Chris Robinson-Easley, Professor of Management at Governors State University. Dr. Easley, a Registered Organization Development Consultant, focused on the concept of "Deep Change," based upon the book by Dr. Robert Quinn, *Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within*.

Dr. Robinson-Easley stated that deep change is not incremental. It requires leaders to develop entirely new ways of thinking. Effective



Oakton Community College
Sculpture by Michael Dunbar

leaders must train themselves to change their paradigms to a systems perspective, to address not just the symptoms of challenging problems but the underlying causes, and to constantly scan the environment to see beyond the present. She cautioned against "paradigm paralysis," an inability to see crea-

tive solutions, as "people seek solutions to new problems in the same places where they found the old ones."

She encouraged attendees to "break the logic of task pursuit" and "re-define your purpose, aligning your actions with your values."

Panelists included Jeff Carlson, Dominican University, and Rick Venneri, St. Xavier University, who suggested that attendees choose a major focus for their work and concentrate on performing quality work with fewer goals, rather than allowing themselves to become distracted with so many efforts that none are done well.

One of the most significant challenges facing leaders in

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WHAT'S HAPPENING—AROUND THE STATE

Southern Illinois U. at Carbondale

Dr. Stephen Yarbrough, Director of the Division of Continuing Education at Southern Illinois University Carbondale will retire October 1, 2007. Steve has been employed by SIUC for the past 17.5 years. He has also been a member of ICCHE and served as the Secretary, Vice President/Program Chair, and President. He will be missed by his colleagues at SIUC as well as the ICCHE membership. Dr. Susan Edgren will be named as the Interim Director and the position will be advertised in the coming year.

Oakton Community College

The U.S. Departments of State and Education sent a delegation of college and university presidents for a weeklong visit to India in April to meet with educators, students, business leaders and government officials. **Dr. Margaret Lee**, president of Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, was among them.

Lee is an advocate for a global approach, especially when it comes to learning and environmental sustainability. Lee uses her position to spread the word that environmental sustainability should be a duty of every person and organization and countries should work together toward that common goal.

Morton College

The June, 2007 issue of CHOICE magazine, of the national American Library Association, featured the newly renovated **Morton College Library** on its cover. Located in Cicero, IL, the library recently completed an extensive updating of its library facilities.

Bradley University

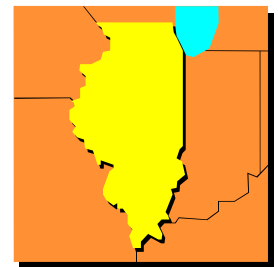
Bradley University CE offered a unique **certificate program** for pro-

fessionals wishing to become mediators for cases involving the custody of a child or visitation issues. "Certificate in Family Mediation" was developed at the request of the 10th Judicial Circuit Court as a response to a new state law requiring mediation in contested custody cases. Bradley's program featured 40 hours of instruction by a team consisting of a clinical psychologist, attorney, counseling professor, and judge.

Bradley University Continuing Education also recently partnered with the university's Study Abroad Program to create an innovative educational travel opportunity for Bradley alumni, friends of the university, and retirees. Led by Sue Manley, Janet Lange, and Jon Neidy, the group of eighteen focused on learning about sacred and cultural spaces. Another innovative aspect of the trip was the London Trip Journal that was posted on the Continuing Education website. Family and friends of travelers were able to enjoy the tour from home by viewing the posted photos and daily journal. The London Trip Journal site is still active, and if you happen to visit www.bradley.edu/continue, you'll also see that the group had a lot of fun while learning!

Wilbur Wright College

On Friday, September 14th the "Getting Safety Wright—**Annual OSHA Conference**," will be hosted by Business & Industry Services (BIS) of Wright College in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Onsite Safety & Health Consultation Program and the Chicago Area North OSHA office. BIS anticipates over 100 business owners and employees to attend. There will be 20 targeted presentations led by OSHA experts and business veterans, with a keynote by Chicago Chamber of Commerce President Jerry Roeper. For further information, contact Christopher Wilkerson at [cwilkerson@ccc.edu] or 773/481-8842.



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SPOTLIGHT: CHRIS WILKERSON, WILBUR WRIGHT COLLEGE

BY HILARY WARD SCHNADT



Chris Wilkerson

In this issue, the spotlight is turned on ICCHE Secretary Christopher Wilkerson, Executive Director of Business and Industry Services, Wilbur Wright College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago.

Chris describes his division as responsible for "designing, developing, and delivering external training programs for business, as

well as serving as the outreach arm for the credit programs to incumbent workers in the healthcare industry." Asking him to choose a program of which he is most proud is like asking a parent to specify a favorite among sons and daughters.

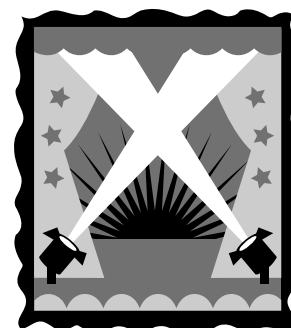
"Our *Workplace English as a Second Language* program has been our bread and butter for six years. We do a phenomenal job in that area and have cultivated an exceptional team of instructors. Shop floor folks doing a great job often need a stronger command of English to be more promotable and become the next generation supervisor." Chris is proud of the fact that his

program also addresses the need for supervisory training in Spanish and in English.

However, he hastens to add, "the *Business and Industry's Environmental Health and Safety* program has become a major product for us, as well as the *Lean Manufacturing* program—which helps businesses achieve more efficiency and effectiveness in current processes."

His love of training led him to his current position. He had been in Logistics and Operations as a supervisor for UPS for eleven years and began his training career there. He loved training those under his supervi-

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National Community College Month

To show their strong support for the nation's community colleges, on May 1, 2007, the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 334 by a 420-0 vote. The resolution honors National Community College Month.

WHAT'S HAPPENING—AROUND THE STATE, CONT'D.

University of Illinois—Chicago

Three new online courses are being offered this fall at UIC.

Kinship Care covers everything from the importance and impact of kinship care on caregivers and parents to ideal decision-making policies for individual families and their needs <http://www.uic.edu/dept/soee/writers/womens.htm>.

Women's Memoir Writing Online introduces writers at all levels to tools and

techniques that help participants explore past experiences imaginatively and meaningfully. This course is designed to bring focus to students' life stories and shape memory and experience into narrative. <http://www.uic.edu/depts/soee/writers/womens.htm>.

Travel Writing: See the World for Fun and Profit is aimed to help students' travel writing sell. <http://www.uic.edu/depts/soee/writers/travel.htm> For all three, call (312) 355-0423.

Eastern Ill. University

Dr. William C. Hine, Dean of the School of Continuing

Education at Eastern Illinois University, was honored at EIU's 20th Annual Student Recognition Ceremony on April 29, 2007 on the EIU campus. Hine received recognition for his twenty years as National Councilor for Eastern Illinois University Alpha Sigma Lambda's chapter of Epsilon Xi. This award was presented for "outstanding leadership," "meritorious service" and in "recognition and appreciation of (Hine's) inspiration and commitment to adult learners."



SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTOPHER WILKERSON , CONT'D

(Continued from page 4)



sion and left UPS to begin five years of delivering corporate training.

Chris' certifications in Customer Service and end-user software applications allowed him to deliver training to various industries including telecommunications, manufacturing and governmental agencies. He made a connection with Wright College and in 2000 was recruited into his current position.

Asked what he most enjoys about it, his reply was prompt and heartfelt. "Continuing to train. The payoff for me is when I see people 'getting it' whether they are new or experienced workers. It's tremendous to see people apply – and excel – in a workplace setting what you've taught them." He also enjoys the challenge of "dealing with business, individuals within the business who may or may not have the same goals, and the systems in place to accomplish each goal. There's a rich diversity of obstacles and challenges."

Chris' involvement in ICCHE began in 2000 as he started in his current position at Wright College. He appreciated the broad base that ICCHE encompasses and got involved to discover whether there were others in the state who held a similar job. And did he find others?

"The discussions about problems encouraged me. I met others who face some of the same issues I do. They didn't have the complexity of a multi-college district, which can magnify issues, but their experience was helpful. It was the same with the Illinois Community College Board's (ICCB) Illinois Community College Economic/Workforce Development Association (ICCEDA)." [See "What's Happening Around the State" on page 3 for information about the Fall 2007 ICCEDA conference.] In recent years he has become more fully involved in ICCHE through the outreach efforts of several board members who encouraged the involvement of a wider group of members.

When asked to forecast emerging issues that will affect continuing education, Chris reported being "very interested in the development of 'brain drain' as Baby Boomers retire. Across Illinois, there's a large group of upper-level management retirees or soon-to-retire workers. It will be interesting to see who the next group of leaders will be and what changes their leadership will bring." His prediction? "People may retire from one job but sign on someplace else." Chris is also interested in the challenges of the immigrant workforce and the philosophy at the heart of ICCHE:

"Words of partnership and collaboration continue to be spoken in the region and in industry. I'd like to see more action, especially in partnering with community-based organizations to provide training for their clients in entry-level and next-level jobs. We're already doing some of it and I'd like to see more."

"Words of partnership and collaboration continue to be spoken...I'd like to see more action..."

NORTHERN REGION SYMPOSIUM, CONT'D

(Continued from page 2)

continuing education, per Dr. Venneri, is the problem of overload, leading to a lack of time to reflect and to focus work efforts.

Just as leaders must be open to change, so must they encourage those who work with them to embrace the changes required of them. Per Dr. Carlson, everyone has "the right to love their work." He suggested

"accomplishing the negative," i.e. eliminating some things so that people are freed up to do quality work.

Respecting their dignity, sharing options with them, using suggestions and establishing a true dialogue, instead of resorting to one-way communication, will help to empower others—the sign of a great leader.

The most compelling leaders were described as those whose personal vision is communicated by example. Attendees were challenged, in Gandhi's words, "to become the change we wish to see in the world."



Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education

Leadership in Lifelong Learning

Be sure to check out the great information at:

Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)
www.ibhe.org

and

Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)
www.iccb.state.il.us/



MISSION: ICCHE is a comprehensive organization of continuing higher education representing all regions of the state of Illinois. Founded in 1975, ICCHE is the only organization in Illinois whose membership includes two and four year colleges and universities, both public and private.

MEMBERSHIP: If you are not already a member, consider joining ICCHE today! The \$75 annual fee includes membership for an institutional representative and up to ten professionals from the same institution.

Past Presidents' Service Award by Will Hine

ICCHE has a forty year tradition of providing leadership and service in Illinois. ICCHE is a unique organization in that, from its very inception, it has been a collaboration among Illinois private colleges and universities, Illinois community colleges and Illinois public universities.

In recognition of this proud

history, the ICCHE Past Presidents' Service Award has been proposed, to be awarded to an institution and/or individual that has provided extended and exemplary service to ICCHE and the State of Illinois.

A letter of nomination would be solicited in the fall from ICCHE members, and the

award would be presented at the Annual meeting, after approval by the ICCHE Board of Directors.

Criteria include long term, outstanding contribution to ICCHE, and exemplary service achieved beyond expectations, and can be awarded to an individual or Illinois higher education institution.

FALL CONFERENCE, CONT'D

(Continued from page 1)

Rooms are available at Starved Rock for Thursday evening, September 27, and a few for Friday evening, September 28 for \$70 (1 person) and \$80 (2 people) per night plus tax. **A limited number of rooms are available at**

this rate and must be reserved by August 24th. Call Starved Rock reservations at 1-800-868-7625 and mention ICCHE.

Voted one of the Seven Wonders of Illinois, Starved

Rock State Park is located in north central Illinois, near I-80 and I-39/51.

We hope to see you there!

* Coyote® is an amber ale, produced by Two Brothers Brewing Company, Warrenville, IL

Comments/Questions/Input??

Please let us know your thoughts about the ICCHE e-newsletter! How can it be improved? What types of information would you like to see included? Please forward comments or questions about this e-newsletter, and/or information for future issues to the attention of :

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