



NEWSLETTER

ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON CONTINUING HIGHER EDUCATION

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ICCHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 5-6, 2009—JOIN US!

The theme of the 2009 Annual ICCHE Conference, slated for February 5-6, will be **"Marketing and Programming During Tough Economic Times."**

The program will begin at 8 AM with Registration and Breakfast, followed by keynote speaker Kassia Dellabough from LERN. A President's Panel will then convene followed by a lunch/business mtg.

The afternoon will be highlighted by an educational panel, breakout sessions, and a networking reception.

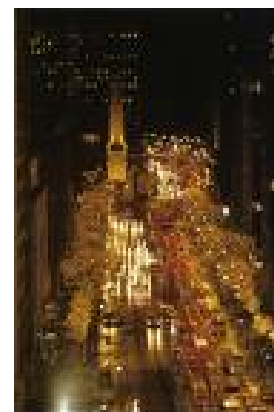
On Friday, attendees reconvene at 7:30 for Breakfast, followed by The Innovative Initiative presentation, and a

panel with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, with reps. from ICCB and IBHE. The day will conclude by noon, with a presentation by Robert Rodriguez of Kaplan University - and the always-popular door prizes.

For complete program and registration information, visit the ICCHE web site, www.icche.org.

The conference will be held at the Doubletree Chicago Magnificent Mile, 300 East Ohio. **January 12** is the cut-off for the low \$109/night conference rate, so be sure to reserve your room ASAP.

The Doubletree is located within blocks of Navy Pier,



Chicago's magnificent Mile

and within easy walking distance of three art museums and the shops of the Magnificent Mile. Enjoy a weekend in Chicago after the conference!



NEW ICCHE WEB SITE LAUNCHES

Enjoy the fresh look, up-to-date information, abundant resources, and networking links at ICCHE's recently launched new web site, at www.icche.org.

The redesign process was spearheaded by Susan Deason, Illinois State University, with the assistance of Blue Daring Consulting, Inc., who provided the technical and design expertise to accomplish this major overhaul of the IC-

CHE web site, along with the generous financial support of many organizations. Please visit the web site for details.

A key new feature is the "News/Events" link, providing continually updated news articles in the field of higher education. News items appear as headlines, along with the opening sentences of each article. Viewers can then link to the full article if they choose. Be sure to visit often!

Among future enhancements

are plans for increased interactive features, online payment of membership dues, and posting of CE job openings at member institutions

This e-newsletter has also changed to reflect the updated look of our ICCHE web site.

We are eager for your feedback. Please address comments/suggestions to Sue Deason: sdeason@ilstu.edu



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As always, it is my honor to offer greetings to the Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education (ICCHE) members and friends.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to explore our new presence on the web at <http://icche.org/>. We are very excited about this newly designed site. I know you will find it beneficial.

The ICCHE organization continues to find ways to bring all of Illinois educational institutions together (community colleges, private institutions, and public universities). ICCHE includes information for both non-credit programs and academic credit degree programs.

I would also like to encourage everyone to take part in ICCHE's 34th Annual Conference on February 5-6, 2009. We are at the same location this year, but the hotel has been totally redesigned, and it is now a Doubletree. Please make your arrangements by January 12, 2009 as our special block price hotel rooms (only \$109) are limited. Contact Doubletree Hotel Chicago – Magnificent Mile at 312/787-6100 prior to the deadline.

The conference will offer many exciting and beneficial opportunities for you, not to mention the opportunity to network with colleagues. More detailed information regarding the Conference and registration is available



*Rick Carter
Western Illinois University
ICCHE President*

at the ICCHE web site, www.icche.org.

Again, it is a great honor to serve as your president, and I look forward to seeing you at all the ICCHE events in 2009. ☀

“.....the expertise, credibility, and statewide perspective to map an efficient and orderly course for the dramatic growth of higher education...”

Getting to Know You—

Illinois Board of Higher Education

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)** is an excellent source of information about higher education in the State of Illinois. Their website has continually updated education news, links to consumer information about higher ed, campus safety issues, grants, legislation, and a wealth of additional areas. In addition, IBHE distributes a link to their newsletter “**The Friday Memo**” by email every Friday, to which you can subscribe.

IBHE was created in 1961 by the Illinois General Assembly and then-Governor Otto Kerner. The goal was to “create an agency with the expertise, credibility, and statewide perspective to map an effi-

cient and orderly course for the dramatic growth of higher education then underway.”

IBHE consists of sixteen members—ten appointed by the Governor, one representative each of public universities, and private colleges and universities, the chairs of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the Illinois Community College Board, and two student members chosen by the Student Advisory Committee, one of whom must be a non-traditional student.

IBHE’s mission is to ensure access to “an affordable, high quality postsecondary

education to meet the needs of all Illinois residents.”

To achieve these goals, the Board has the authority to approve or reject proposals by public university governing boards and the Ill. Community College Board for new units of instruction, research, or public service. They also grant authority to operate and grant degrees for independent and out-of-state institutions.

State and federal educational grant funds are also administered by IBHE. For example, the *Higher Education Cooperation Act* provides grants for educational initiatives

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DOWNSTATE CONFERENCES—Past and Future

by Valerie Thaxton

A 5.2 magnitude earthquake was felt as far west as Kansas, as far north as Upper Michigan, and as far south as Georgia the day of the Downstate Regional Conference April 18, 2008. As the more than 35 participants arrived that morning, the "Who Shot J.R.?" question was "Did you feel the earthquake?" as professionals arrived from the lower half of the state to discuss successful programming ideas, marketing strategies, and to get some insight into marketing and promotion on the web.

The meeting, which was hosted by University of Illinois – Springfield, featured two panel presentations and a PowerPoint presentation by Ross Miller, Assistant Director of the Small Business Development Center located at Bradley University's Turner Center for Entrepreneurship. Mr. Miller's presentation focused on marketing through the web.

The morning panel, "Show me the Money!" featured Sharon Walters from SIUC, Trachia Stolz from UIC and Sue Deason from ISU, each sharing tried and true ideas for revenue-generating programs. The afternoon panel, "Marketing Strategies," featured Jody Lauf and Kelly Turner from SWIC, Sue Deason from ISU and Beth Craig from EIU. These professionals shared low-cost, effective marketing and promotion strategies that have been successful at their respective institutions.

The networking lunch gave participants an informal opportunity to discuss activities and programs. Evaluations were very positive and participants specifically cited the benefit of practical discussions with real "hands on" focus. Everyone agreed that the spring regional conference is always one of the best professional bargains around!

The 2009 Downstate Regional will be held **Friday, April 24, 2009** at Heartland Community College in Normal and the theme will be "Green Initiatives." ☀



NORTHERN REGION 2009 CONFERENCE SET

Friday, April 17, 2009, the Northern Region will hold its annual spring conference at the Wheaton campus of Illinois Institute of Technology. Focus of the conference will be the use of "Technology in the Classroom Environment."

Ray Schroeder, nationally acclaimed leader in the use of technology in education and presenter at ICCH's Starved Rock Confer-

ence last fall, will be the featured keynote speaker at the spring conference.

Professor Schroeder is the Director of the Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning at the University of Illinois—Springfield. Explore the wealth of information on his Techno-News and Online Learning blogs at his web site, <http://rayschroeder.googlepages.com>



Student Veterans and the SVA

from Illinois Student Asst. Commission

Over 520,000 veterans are currently using their education benefits. When the new GI Bill goes into effect in August 2009, more than half a million additional veterans are expected to head for campus.

Many have founded local student organizations on college campuses to provide peer-to-peer networks. **Student Veterans of America (SVA)** is a coalition of student veteran organizations on college campuses across the United States, and is one of the most rapidly growing grassroots veterans organizations in the United States today.

Since its founding in January 2008, SVA has expanded from 12 initial member groups to student veteran groups on over 80 campuses.

SVA has three main goals:

- Develop student veteran groups on college cam-

puses and coordinate by region between existing groups

- Connect student groups and university administrators with resources while aiding veterans transitioning into higher education
- Advocate on behalf of student veterans at the state and national level

Thousands of veterans exit military service every month, only to find an overwhelming combination of emotional, financial, and cultural obstacles standing between them and a college education. SVA is dedicated to ensuring these veterans do not slip through the cracks on their journey through higher education toward a better quality of life.



Student veterans at EKV

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WHAT'S HAPPENING—AROUND THE STATE

Oakton Community College

Professor Pamela Hegg has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious Instructional Technology Council **Outstanding Distance Learning Faculty award** for 2009, along with co-honoree Sharon Rifkin from Broward College in Florida. Professor Hegg's energy, enthusiasm and commitment to her students and to technological innovation helped secure the award. Recipients will receive a complimentary registration to attend e-Learning 2009 in Portland, Oregon this coming February.

Saint Xavier University

The **Leadership Academy of the Southwest Suburbs** will hold professional training seminars beginning February 2009 at St. Xavier University's Orland Park campus. Each session will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon. LASS trains and motivates local business professionals who wish to advance their leadership capabilities and strengthen their businesses.

The program will be presented in a series of eight sessions led by certified instructors and regional business leaders who provide real world experiences. Participants will have the opportunity to network and build relationships with current and future leaders in the area. Sessions will be offered on Feb. 6, 20, March 6, 20, April 3, 24, and May 8, 15, and 21. Registration fee \$299, or \$200 for 2 or more from the same company. For more information about LASS, call 708-633-4711 or visit www.sxu.edu/LASS.

Eastern Illinois University

Approximately 18 months ago, Eastern Illinois University's School of Continuing Education began development of a **Lifelong Learning Institute**. At the recommendation of an ad hoc committee made up of community members, annuitants and University administration, the Academy of Lifelong Learning was officially formed in April of 2008, seating an advisory board of 13 members.

The purpose of this effort is to provide all 50+ community members an outlet for their creative and educational needs. Much of the growth in higher education institutions in the years to come will be through serving the entire community not just the traditional student. The School of Continuing Education best understands the nontraditional student through serving their specific needs for decades; we see it as our duty and privilege to

continue to provide a wide variety of innovative programming to meet the changing needs of the nontraditional student.

Elmhurst College

The *School for Advanced Learning* in conjunction with the *Department of Geosciences* is starting a mid-year online **Geographic Information Systems Certificate Program** (GISCP) in response to increased demand for GIS technical skills. This non-degree, four course certificate, has been offered annually by the college since fall of 2006. The GISCP is an attractive professional development option for people employed by municipalities, environmental planning organizations, and the US military. The courses are aligned with the educational requirements required for GIS Professional Certification. More information is available at <http://www.elmhurst.edu/~geo/GISCertProgram.html>.

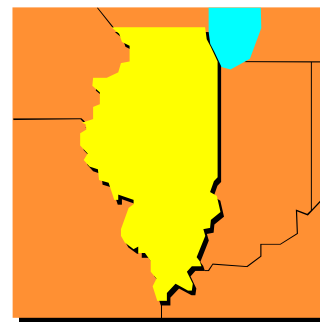
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

January 8 through 10, 2009 Conferences & Institutes and UIUC will host the 34th Annual **Illinois High School Theatre Festival** (IHSTF). Over 150 high schools from across Illinois will participate in the Festival in January. The IHSTF is the largest and oldest non-competitive high school theatre festival in the world. Each year, over 4,000 students, teachers, university representatives, exhibitors, and volunteers come together for three days to put on over 25 different high school productions and over 190 workshops. Other highlights include college/university auditions for high school seniors, professional development for teachers, and the annual All-State Production, featuring student cast, crew, and orchestra members from across the state. Hosting of the IHSTF is shared with Illinois State University and 2010's Festival will be on the ISU campus.

Bradley University

Continuing Education at Bradley University has hired a **new Program Director**, Michelle L. Riggio. Ms. Riggio will work with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in addition to other programs. She is a former special education teacher and public information officer.

Also, Supreme Court **Rule 900 training** will be offered January 30-31, 2009. Designed for attorneys representing children, this pro-



American Council on Education - and the Higher Education Act

The American Council on Education has prepared a 10-page summary, highlighting the major features of the new **Higher Education Act** signed into law on August 14, 2008, and effective immediately. The following is an excerpt from their report:

“On July 31, Congress completed reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) by passing the Higher Education Opportunity Act—five years late and after an unprecedented 14 extensions of the statutory deadline. The president signed the bill into law on August 14, 2008. Except for rules regarding relationships between higher education institutions and student lenders, the act does not address federal student loan programs, which were reauthorized and modified by the 2007 College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

Although the act includes burdensome new reporting, disclosure, and other requirements, it reflects noteworthy progress in that Congress was persuaded to reject yet more onerous and problematic proposals. As the bill is hundreds of pages long, this summary highlights selected key new provisions only.”

The following topics are addressed in the Higher Education Act:

- College Costs—various provisions aimed

at the rising cost of education

- Accreditation—one of the most controversial of the Act’s provisions
- Student Financial Aid—including Pell Grant, Veteran benefits- including a right to readmission under certain circumstances, and provisions for students with intellectual disabilities, to increase access to financial aid
- Key Disclosure & Compliance Provisions—related to campus climate, including campus safety, peer-to-peer file sharing, and textbook cost containment
- Student Loan “Sunshine” Provision—the federal government will for the first time regulate private educational lending
- Title II—Teacher Professional Development—includes additional grants to improve teacher training and pro. development
- Title VI—International Education—includes several key provisions
- Studies—authorizes various studies
- Effective Date and Next Steps—includes nearly 70 new programs, although many are not expected to receive funding.

For the full report, visit the American Council on Education, www.acenet.edu, Division of Government and Public Affairs, for their August 2008 analysis, or go directly to the following url:
<http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=HENA&Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=29218>



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

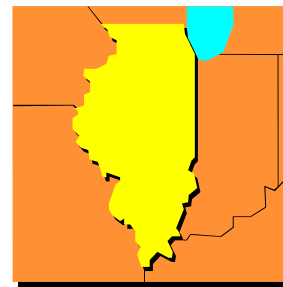
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gram complies with the 10th Judicial Circuit Court’s administrative rules and will qualify each participant to act as an attorney representing children per Supreme Court Rule 908.

Participants will hear from the leading experts in each of the areas specifically mentioned in Rule 906, have the opportunity to participate in panel discussions to develop networking and problem-solving skills, and learn about the applicable law from judges who provide the viewpoint from the bench.

Attorneys must have appropriate training if they wish to act as an attorney for the child, a child representative, or GAL in all cases covered by Rule 900, including juvenile. This program will meet attorney requirements under the Tenth Judicial local rules, and possibly other circuits that adopt it. CLE hours applied for. Cost is \$400. For further information, contact www.bradley.edu/ continue.

Note: News items posted in order received.



Spotlight—Preston Morgan - *Retiring!*

By Hilary Ward Schnadt



In this issue, the spotlight is turned on Preston Morgan, the Illinois Community College Board's ex officio member of the Executive Committee—and not a moment too soon.

Preston retired from the ICCB on December 31, and took the time to respond to ICCHE's interview request just before tackling the first of a series of assignments planned for his retirement. "I will keep working as long as I am needed," he promised. "However, I do want to find some time to kick back and relax. I have not had a vacation in over 11 years." ICCHE has long benefited from that work ethic, and we are glad to have this opportunity to pay one final tribute.

Preston's career at the ICCB spanned 23 years and a variety of roles. The common denominator was a role central to workforce development. As he summarizes, "I have run programs through the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). I have reviewed new units of instruction and course requests, reviewed adult education area and institutional plans, developed and administered grant programs, coordinated the delivery of statewide training and education for businesses, staffed articulation committees, planned statewide conferences and meetings, and even assisted in the formation of a statewide community college system foundation." He retired from the position of Senior Director for Workforce Development.

His extra-curricular service to the State's workforce development efforts helped position him for his ICCHE role. When then ICCHE President Mary Bates approached President and Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Obrzut to request the Illinois Community College Board provide a staff person to serve on the ICCHE Executive Committee in an ex-officio capacity, Preston was already serving on two boards for community college associations and seemed like the natural choice. "Of course it didn't hurt that I had already had experience with ICCHE by being a member for several years and attended many of the meetings and conferences. I was thrilled to be asked and proudly accepted the assignment. I have served on the ICCHE Executive Committee for about three years" he reports.

Preston describes the cooperation and collaboration among Illinois higher education institutions as one of the great strengths of the State's higher

education systems. ICCHE's role as a facilitator of collaboration between community colleges and public and private four-year institutions is also crucial. "As the workplace has become more complex and lifelong learning has become the norm rather than the exception, Illinois' higher education institutions are meeting the needs of the adult learner through cooperative nontraditional programming. ICCHE has served as a key organization in bringing all of higher education together in an effort to better serve the educational needs of the citizens of Illinois. ICCHE provides a forum for discussion, idea exchange, and staff networking that helps all institutions improve their educational offerings."

When asked how the current economic downturn might affect workforce development in Illinois, he took the long view. "I have been involved in workforce development for the past 30 years. Over that span of time, this is one of the most exciting times ever." Although conceding that staff development is frequently a company's first budget cut, he sees several indicators that suggest optimism.

"President-elect Obama said that he wants to rebuild America's infrastructure. That will require highly trained workers. Mr. Obama also wants to stimulate the economy, in part by providing more resources to education." Plus, he added, "America realizes that alternative forms of energy must be further developed. As the energy industry becomes more diversified, highly skilled workers at all levels will be required."

His conclusion? "Workforce development in Illinois will become more central to the strength of the State's economy than ever before."

Workforce development will also remain central to Preston Morgan's life. His work at ICCB included serving as state affiliate director for the American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT), an organization for which he also served as a National Coordinator. "The staff at the American Council on Education was pleased to hear about my retirement from the ICCB. They have me booked through February and into March conducting course reviews and workshops." He is also talking with the American Association of Community Colleges about consulting assignments. We at ICCHE recommend that he also take some time to talk to a travel agent about booking a well-deserved vacation, but we won't take any bets on how soon that will happen. While there are still workforces to develop, we suspect that Preston Morgan will still be on the job.



"Workforce development in Illinois will become more central to the strength of the State's economy than ever before."



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 \$125 annual fee includes membership for an institutional representative and up to ten professionals from the same institution. And for an annual institutional fee of \$200, an unlimited number from the institution can be members and enjoy all the benefits! See **www.icche.org** for details.

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION CONT'D

(Continued from page 2)

between at least two higher education institutions in the State to promote the development of innovative programs.

IBHE also maintains a state university and college information database, recommends budgets for operations, grants and capital improvements for higher education institutions and agencies, and analyzes the aims, needs and requirements

of Illinois higher education, modifying the master plan that guides development of the state's system of public and private colleges and universities.

Visit the IBHE web site at **www.ibhe.state.il.us** to learn more.

To subscribe to their informative **Friday Memo**, scroll down to the "Resources" section of the

home page, click on "Board Mailing Subscription Form," complete and submit.

And be sure to meet **Rick Pearce**, IBHE ex-officio representative on ICCHE's executive Board at the next ICCHE gathering!

Adapted from the IBHE website



Student Veterans and the SVA - cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

SVA organizations coordinate a wide range of campus activities, including informal social meetings, benefits seminars, counseling in conjunction with other organizations, publication of newsletters and brochures, local

service projects and volunteer work, and pre-professional networking.

For information about setting up an SVA group on your campus, contact: Rodrigo Garcia, Midwest Regional Director,

SVA, www.studentveterans.org

Email: rodrigo.garcia@studentveterans.org

Janetta Clemons, Outreach Coordinator, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, jclemons@isac.org



Comments/Questions/Input??

Like our new look? Suggestions for changes? Want to be a roving reporter and/or join the fun?

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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