



NEWSLETTER

ICCHE

The Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education (ICCHE) is a comprehensive organization of continuing higher education representing all regions of the state of Illinois.

Founded in 1975, IC-CHE is the only organization in Illinois whose membership includes two and four year colleges and universities, both public and private.

OFFICERS

Joy Thompson
President
University of St. Francis
jthompson@stfrancis.edu

Vanessa Sneed and Jackie Welch
President Elect/Vice President
Southern Illinois University

Christopher Wilkerson
Immediate Past President
Workforce Institute of Harold Washington College

Carla Coury
Secretary
Lewis & Clark Community College

Nina Crick
Treasurer
Rock Valley College

ICCHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMING IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS!

Join us for the 36th annual ICCHE conference, "Surfing the Tides of Change," scheduled for February 10-11 at the Doubletree Hotel in Chicago. Experience nearly two days of exciting networking and learning with colleagues from throughout the State.

This year's keynote speaker will be Carl Riseberg, "How to Stay Energized in a Changing World."

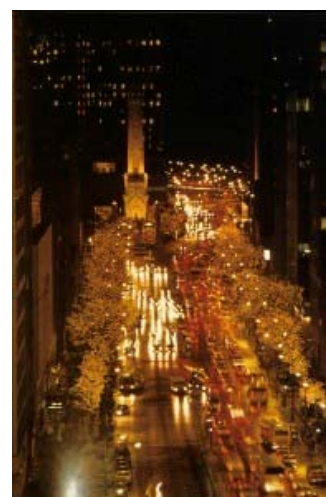
Morning breakout sessions will include: "A Sustainable Funding Model for Online Education," "Sustainability on Campus," and "Surfing your way to Better Customer Service."

After a wonderful network-

ing lunch and awards presentation, afternoon breakouts include "Illinois Higher Education Veteran Services Best Practices," "Cultivate the Quickest Growing Crop: Generating Leads from Adult Students," and "How We Can Make a Difference in our Teaching and Learning."

Choose from (8) different networking roundtables before the day concludes with a festive evening reception.

On Friday morning, attendees reconvene for an outstanding government agency panel, followed by a presentation by Ray Shroeder, who will examine strategies, technologies, practices and practicalities that enable programs to thrive, not just survive, in the online environment.



Michigan Avenue in Chicago

Note: Attendees driving in each day can obtain a discounted parking rate of \$14 a day if arriving before 8 am. See the [ICCHE web site](#) for additional information and registration.



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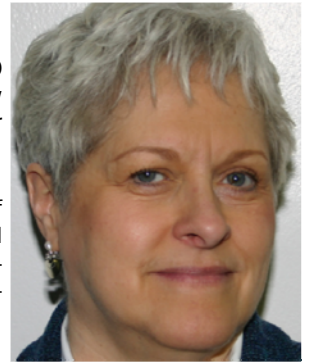
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello ICCHE Members,

Deep in the throes of an Illinois winter, we can head for the warmth of the ICCHE conference on February 10 and 11 at the Doubletree in Chicago. It's an opportunity to catch up with favorite colleagues and establish new ones. With the theme of *Surfing the Tides of Change*, you are sure to feel gentle breezes and the sun on your back. Dig into your closet and bring a Hawaiian shirt with you for Thursday's reception.

It's been my pleasure to serve you as president this year. Much of the progress that we made was in terms of the use of technology to benefit our membership. In order to save time and institutional budgets, our June and December board meetings were by phone/web conference. We missed the camaraderie of meeting face-to-face where we can more easily exchange ideas and read each other's unspoken language, but it's a wonderful alternative, one that also saves money for ICCHE.

We established a new web site this year, thanks to the hard work of our web master Robin Nash from Oakton, and our web developer, Rob Whitt from SIU Carbondale. It has a fresh updated look with easy navigation and lots of information. It includes guidelines for grants and awards as well as information about the Executive Committee, Institutional Representatives, and Committee Chairs. Take advantage of the many opportunities that your ICCHE membership provides to support your professional advancement and to serve your colleagues. See our web site at www.icche.org



Dr. Joy Thompson,
ICCHE President

While you are at our web site, check out the new video about our organization. It was filmed and produced by Teresa Koltzenberg from Western Illinois University with interviews, photos, and video of our fall retreat at Starved Rock. When "ICCHE: Leadership, Networking, Professional Development" comes up, click on "Watch the Video"... Thanks Teresa!

Our Membership Directory for 2011 is on the web site in the Members section and is up-to-date as of January 1. You can have direct access at http://www.icche.org/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=184. Since the Directory is now electronic and easier to make changes than the former paper format, Institutional Representatives will be contacted quarterly for membership updates.

We also established a new home for our Listserv at Eastern Illinois University. The ICCHE Listserv is a member benefit, providing opportunity to interact, ask questions, compare program notes, discuss organizational concerns, share knowledge and experiences, and collaborate with colleagues. To submit a message to the Listserv, send it to icche@lists.eiu.edu. Remember that using either Reply or Reply All will send your response to the entire list.

What makes serving as president particularly enjoyable is the support and cooperation of the officers, representatives, and chairs on the Executive Committee. That extends to the members who are always willing to volunteer for duties. Since ICCHE's first president, Alan Knox in 1975, our organization has served continuing higher education in Illinois, and it goes on to evolve and prosper.

FALL RETREAT

KEYNOTE— DR. ROBERT VAUGHAN



Dr. Richard Vaughan

Fall retreat keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Vaughan, Asst. Professor, School of Business, University of St. Francis, began the day with a presentation entitled, "Ready or Not, Here They come: Generation Y." Dr. Vaughan pointed out that for the first time in U.S. history, four generations are currently in the work force at the same time, i.e. those born:

- 1925-42 = The Silent (Greatest) Generation, 27 million strong, representing 6% of the current U.S. workforce
- 1943-64 = Baby Boomers, 78 million, representing the largest segment of the workforce; some 10,000 turn 50 every day; they are 42% of the current U.S. workforce
- 1965-81 = Generation X, 28% of the workforce
- 1982-93 = Generation Y (Millennial Generation, Net Generation, Echo Boomers), 71 million, representing 24% of the workforce. These young people are entering college and the labor market in droves

Generation Y has never known a world without remote controls, CD's, cable TV or computers, and has been shaped by technological innovations, such as high-speed Internet, iPod, iPad, etc.. They are active users of social media and digital technologies. Per Dr. Vaughan, they are used to speed and access, and have no patience with delays. Many desire to make a difference and are interested in Green initiatives and training.

Challenges in effectively reaching this generation in school are many. Dr. Vaughn urged attendees to encourage their students' values, train and mentor them, provide feedback, both positive and negative, show them how their work converts to the bottom line, and provide full disclosure, customized career paths, and access to the effective use of technology in the classroom.

ROBERT GALLO– AARP

The Older Learners: Reinventing Yourself Through Education

Bob Gallo, Sr. State Director
AARP Illinois

Bob Gallo, Senior State Director of AARP Illinois, presented at the ICCHE Fall Retreat at Starved Rock. His topic was “The Older Learners: Reinventing Yourself Through Education.” Mr. Gallo reported that more people than ever are changing their career paths in their 40’s, 50’s and 60’s, for a variety of reasons. Many of them choose to obtain further schooling. He shared results of a 2009 survey conducted by AARP of individuals 50 and older across the nation, to determine what they think about going back to school.



Robert Gallo

The top reason of those surveyed for returning to school was to sharpen skills that might help on the job (47%), particularly among those ages 50 – 64, vs. those 65 and older. Of those individuals, most preferred to complete their studies in a relatively short timeframe, to enable them to translate their education into meaningful employment.

Many have prior degrees, work at least part time, and/or are raising families. They consistently request that the college offer support services to help them achieve their goals, i.e. help navigating registration procedures, or with online courses, or mapping out customized course schedules. AARP reports that 16% of 11.6 million community college students are 40 or older.

The second most frequent motivation for returning to school was strictly “for pleasure – wanting to learn about new topics.” Fully 1/3 of those polled mentioned a community college as their preferred option for learning. More than half of the respondents (57%) said the last time they enrolled in classes was more than 15 years ago.

“Community colleges are in a unique position to capitalize on increased demand from older learners. With few exceptions, most schools have not yet realized such potential.” Mr. Gallo suggested that schools prepare students for success by easing their entry to college, honoring their experience, and providing a flexible, responsive educational environment.

A full copy of the survey is available at :

http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/back_school.pdf

PANEL DISCUSSION– PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DIALOG

Panel Discussion: The Impact of the State Budget on Continuing Higher Education

Moderator: Will Hine, Dean, School of Continuing Education, Eastern Illinois University

Karen Anderson – VP, Adult Education and Institutional Support, ICCB

Charles Evans, Asst. VP, Academic Affairs, University of Illinois

Denise Jones, VP for Finance and Administration, Elmhurst College

Panelists shared their perceptions about educational issues and the future of education in Illinois. Attendees learned that from an approximate annual budget of \$26 billion, the State of Illinois faces a budget deficit of nearly \$ 18 billion. Given the many fiscal challenges facing the State of Illinois and the colleges and universities operating in the state, attendees were especially interested in hearing the views of panel members on how the State’s budget is impacting continuing higher education.

Charles Evans from the University of Illinois expressed a need to open doors and break down barriers between different types of schools, as well as between potential students and schools, in order to expand access and improve educational offerings and smooth transitions for students.

Karen Anderson of ICCB suggested that attendees “follow the money” for funding sources, such as AARP, the Joyce Foundation, etc., and not rely on state funds. Further, she indicated that nothing would be funded unless its worth could be demonstrated, in outcomes, not just in student satisfaction. She pointed out that not everyone is looking to enhance job skills, but nearly everything could be applied to a job setting. She encouraged attendees to establish communities close to the student for learning, not just at the main campus.

Denise Jones of Elmhurst College described a need to market the program and increase communication for those in continuing higher education, i.e. to be able to explain to legislators, neighbors and other departments at a school, “what we do, who we serve, what our budget is, and how we impact” the world. Given the difficulty of financing higher education for many students, she pointed out that some schools routinely send all students to financial aid to determine if there has been any change in their circumstances, and whether there is any additional aid for which they could now be eligible.



WHAT'S HAPPENING—AROUND THE STATE



Bradley University

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will be hosting the following trips as part of their program for lifelong learners. For more information, contact Emily at 309.677.3900 or eskocaj@bradley.edu

Ancient Earthworks, May 19 – 21, 2011

Southern Ohio is renowned for unique aboriginal earthworks – mounds of various shapes and enclosures often built in geometric patterns – once used for a variety of ceremonial and social activities by ancient civilizations. Constructed between 2,500 and 900 years ago, they range in shape and size from single, small conical mounds to elaborate geometric earthworks covering dozens of acres.

Who better to discuss these sacred spaces and reflect upon the lives of their builders than Dr. Michael Wiant, Director of the Illinois State Museum at Dickson Mounds. Dr. Wiant will lead a fascinating three-day exploration of the earthworks as we discuss their meanings and attempt to solve the mysteries about the ancient cultures. A pre-trip reading list and field guide will be available for all participants.

Vicksburg: Grant Moves South, September 6 – 13, 2011

The first four days of July, 1863, were critically important to the outcome of the Civil War. During that historic period, Union and Confederate soldiers were engaged in heavy fighting at Gettysburg, PA, but they were also battling for control of the Mississippi River at Vicksburg, MS.

We'll begin our trip by learning about the 1861 Battle of Belmont, which was Ulysses S. Grant's first Civil War battle. And, like General Grant, we'll stay in Paducah, KY for one night before continuing our journey south. Our next stops will include Fort Donelson (near Dover, TN); Corinth, MS; and Shiloh, TN – all of which are important Civil War sites. During our three nights in Vicksburg, we'll visit several nearby sites with a professional guide who will step on our charter coach and bring history alive.

We'll also make a little jaunt to Natchez, MS, a beautiful historic city filled with Antebellum homes and historic buildings. Our Natchez guide has chosen some "can't miss" sites, and we'll enjoy a delightful lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Vicksburg for the night. On our way home from Vicksburg, we'll spend one night in Memphis, where we'll visit the National Civil Rights Museum – the former Lorraine Motel and the site of Martin Luther King's 1968 assassination.

Bernie Drake, former President of the Peoria Historical Society Board of Directors, is a popular and engaging lecturer, and he will share his expertise to enhance our understanding of the sites we visit. As we make our way to Vicksburg, we will tour other important battlefields in Missouri, Tennessee, and Mississippi. With Bernie Drake and local professional guides to lead our tours, we'll study Civil War history...without history books or tests!

Sue Manley, Conference Services Director in Continuing Education – and veteran traveler – will make all the arrangements so you travel worry free! Previous travelers admire her attention to detail – and her ability to offer a variety of "distinctive" dining experiences. After you board the charter coach on day one, your only job will be to enjoy the journey.

Eastern Illinois University

Job opening: Director

Eastern Illinois University invites applications for the position of Director of the Bachelor in General Studies Degree Program in the School of Continuing Education. The successful candidate will be responsible for the expansion, supervision and administration of the Bachelor of General Studies Program. Qualifications: Doctorate degree required; strong oral and written communication skills; experience in adult nontraditional programs/teaching; online learning environment; and, significant higher education administrative experience. Review of completed applications will begin on March 1, 2011 and continue until the position is filled. Complete application includes a letter of application, a current curriculum vita, and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of five professional references. Candidates invited to continue with the search will be required to provide official transcripts showing graduate degrees. All application materials, except for the official transcripts, must be sent as a Word or PDF document to Peggy Hickox at pahickox@eiu.edu.

Complete job description available at: <http://www.eiu.edu/adulted/position.php>

Eastern Illinois University is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action employer committed to achieving a diverse community.

Elgin Community College

In a November 29 special report by Community College Week, Elgin Community College was named the nation's 13th fastest-growing community college among institutions with enrollments of 10,000 or more. On this same list, ECC ranked number one in the state of Illinois. The report tracked enrollment for the period between the fall 2008 and fall 2009 semesters; ECC's enrollment increase during that time was 19 percent.

Governor's State University

With the installation of an on-campus wind turbine, Governors State University will continue reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and move toward its goal of becoming Illinois' greenest university. GSU got the green light for an important environmental initiative when Warren Ribley, director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, announced a \$153,000 grant for

the 50 kilowatt turbine, to be located on the University Park campus. The wind turbine will give Governors State a clean, renewable source of energy, and also be incorporated into the university's academic programs, said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. Students in GSU science classes will be able to monitor the turbine's performance and learn about renewable technology.

"Sustainability and efficiency have gone far beyond being buzzwords," Ribley said. "They are now part of our way of life. We need to develop an energy policy that recognizes and takes care of the environment."

In Illinois, Ribley said, institutions of higher learning are at the forefront of cutting-edge environmental initiatives. GSU's wind turbine, along with other its innovative programs fostering efficiency and sustainability, will create jobs and save taxpayer dollars. "Those are dollars that can be plowed back into the university to support students and curriculum."

The wind turbine will give Governors State a clean, renewable source of energy, and also be incorporated into the university's academic programs, said GSU President Elaine P. Maimon. Students in GSU science classes will be able to monitor the turbine's performance and learn about renewable technology. Maimon said GSU's wind turbine exemplifies the university's commitment to sustainability. She noted that children attending the Family Learning Center, adjacent to the wind turbine site, will see it every day, and learn a valuable lesson about sustainability and environmental stewardship early in their lives.

State Senator Toi Hutchinson, D-Olympia Fields, said she is pleased to be a partner in GSU's environmental initiatives. GSU, she noted, is a center for positive, forward-thinking action in the Southland region. "We can make anything, grow anything, that we need and we can do it right here," Hutchinson said. "A university is supposed to be a portal to the future. When GSU opens doors, you can go anywhere you want."

Construction of the 120-foot-tall wind turbine will begin in January 2011 and is expected to take six to nine months. When operational, the turbine will provide 35 percent of the power for GSU's Family Development Center and save about \$14,000 a year in energy costs, according to Susan Rakstang, associate vice president for facilities development and maintenance.

With more than 7,500 students and 900 employees, Governors State University has been environmentally responsible for many years. GSU's students, faculty and staff are active participants in a long-standing, university wide recycling program. More than 75 ton of recyclable materials are collected each year.

In 2008, renovated several parking lots, replacing asphalt with permeable pavers -- interlocking bricks that allow rainwater to seep down, trapping heavy metals and pollutants before they enter storm sewers. GSU is also home to one of the state's largest solar-thermal systems, which pre-heats water for the campus swimming pool and provides about one-third of the domestic hot water for the university's main building.

GSU recently replaced two inefficient 750 horsepower boilers with 10 smaller modulating boilers, reducing the university's carbon footprint by more than 3,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. Inefficient lamps and light fixtures throughout the university have been replaced and new bulbs and light fixtures were added to The Center for Performing Arts, the university television studios, and other campus locations.

Harper College

On Wednesday, April 6, Harper will host "Our Green Future," a panel presentation by three of this year's six young award winners "who have shown outstanding leadership on a project or campaign with positive environmental and environmental justice and social impact." The Earth Institute's Brower Youth Award Winners receive a \$3,000 cash prize, a trip to California for the award ceremony and wilderness camping trip, and ongoing access to resources and opportunities to further their work at the Earth Island Institute. Young activist leaders ages 13-22 living in North America are eligible to apply.

Joliet Junior College

Since the summer of 2010, Joliet Junior College has offered a *Certificate in Digital Photography* for those students who complete a combination of core and elective classes that include *Secrets of Great Digital Photography*, *Advertising and Still Life Photography*, *Secrets of Lighting*, *Business Basics for Photographers*, and much more.

"Photography has always been popular in our district," said JJC's Personal Enrichment Coordinator, Brenda Large who introduced the school's first successful digital photography program in the fall of 2007. "Since we began offering the photography series, enrollment has grown to more than 1000."

Revenue has also grown starting at modest \$3,332 in fall 2007 to \$26, 217 for fall 2010. It has also earned more than \$133,000 since the program began. "People in our district are very creative and have a real passion for photography," said Large. "It is one of the most successful programs we offer in our Lifelong Learning curriculum and one of the main reasons for this success is Gene Alvear, our senior photography instructor."

Alvear is a professional digital photographer who also loves to teach. He has expanded the original Secrets of Digital Photography program into a variety of professional-level classes that include lighting, wedding, portrait, and product photography. "Because Gene is a professional photographer, our certificate program includes everything a serious student will need to know from camera basics to how to keep costs down," said Large.

This in-depth training produces a great reputation that can result in phone calls like the one Large received from the Joliet Area Community Hospice (JACH). They asked if students from the digital photography program could take some family portraits with Santa at its pediatric Christmas party. Large agreed because she knew that families with pediatric hospice patients have some special needs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING—AROUND THE STATE CONT'D

"Sometimes, it is just not logistically possible with some of the challenges that these children face," said Large. "So when the hospice contacted me about partnering on this, I knew what a wonderful opportunity it was. Our students were able to use their talents to benefit the community and, because they donated their time and skills, these families now have a priceless gift."

Instructor Gene Alvear recommended two of his students for this special photo shoot: Phebe Perino and Dan Peters. "I can say unequivocally: They're very giving and they did an incredible job," he said. Each family received a framed 5-by-7 inch family portrait and a 4-by-6 inch Santa and child photo including a CD of all the images so additional prints could be made.

"I've never donated my time like that before and I loved it," said Perino. "It felt good."

"Photography can bring a great deal of happiness to people," said Large. "It is the only job where the practitioner asks people to 'smile.'"

St. Xavier University

Working on Film series

One of the unique powers of film is its ability to reveal the world in a way we've never seen it before and to invite us into the lives of others. The films to be screened in the 2010-2011 SXU Film Series all shed light on the experience of labor: how and where people work and the ways that work affects personal life. These stories of work span 80 years of film making and stretch across the globe, linked by the universality of work and human dignity. For more information please contact us at filmseries@sxu.edu.

Remaining films in the 7-film series include:

Killer of Sheep

Feb. 17, 2011

(1979, U.S.A.) Directed by Charles Burnett

Killer of Sheep examines the black Los Angeles ghetto of Watts in the mid-1970s through the eyes of Stan, a sensitive dreamer who is growing detached and numb from the psychic toll of working at a slaughterhouse. The film offers no solutions; it merely presents life ; sometimes hauntingly bleak, sometimes filled with transcendent joy and gentle humor. Killer of Sheep was shot on location in Watts in a series of weekends on a budget of less than \$10,000, most of which came from grant money. It won a prize at the 1981 Berlin International Film Festival, it was chosen as one of the 100

Norma Rae

March 17, 2011

(1979, USA) Directed by Martin Ritt

Norma Rae is the story of a factory worker from a small town in Alabama who becomes involved in the labor union activities at the textile factory where she works. The film stars Sally Field in the titular role, Beau Bridges as Norma Rae's husband, Sonny, and Ron Liebman as union organizer Reuben Warshowsky. Sally Field won both an Academy Award and a Best Actress Award from the Cannes Film Festival for her performance.

Baran

April 14, 2011

(2001, Iran) Directed by Majid Majidi

Dealing with the plight of the huge population of Afghani refugees in Iran, Baran is a story about a contemporary social problem; it is also a love story, and a parable in which spiritual awareness is attained through compassion and sacrifice. The film traces the moral development of Latif, a cocky teenage construction worker, who gradually learns to care for others when he falls in love with Baran, a beautiful Afghan girl who is her family's sole provider.

Oakton Community College

Oakton Sponsors Free College Financial Aid Workshops. Students and parents seeking assistance with obtaining financial aid may attend a free "FAFSA Completion Day" workshop sponsored by Oakton, on Saturday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at the Skokie campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Ave. Free parking is available.

Offered in English, Spanish and Polish, the program is open to the public. Financial aid experts will assist families in completing the 2011-2012 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available online through the U.S. Department of Education.

Participants are asked to bring all records and personal data needed to complete the FAFSA application, including copies of 2010 income tax returns, W-2 forms; bank statements; Social Security cards; and driver's license and immigration cards, if applicable.



Volunteer photographer Dan Peters shoots a family portrait at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Christmas party for pediatric patients.

Peters is a graduate of the "Secrets of Great Digital Photography" program and is pursuing a certificate in photography at Joliet Junior College.

Essential Films by the National

WHAT'S HAPPENING—AROUND THE STATE CONT'D

For information, call 847-635-1708, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Part of Financial Aid Admission Awareness Month, the event is sponsored by the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and Illinois Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (ILASFAA).

University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign

Success of Summer Session Online

2010 saw huge growth in the number and diversity of online standalone offerings for the Summer semester, particularly from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 35 courses produced just over 1000 enrollments, numbers that are likely to expand even further in 2011.

Online Master of Arts in Communication with a specialization in Health Communication

STARTING Fall 2010: This online Master's degree targets health care and public health professionals who seek an advanced degree to enhance their career, graduates from social science programs who wish to specialize in health communication, and individuals who want the master's degree as a step toward applying to a doctoral program.

Students can study the relationship between communication and health in interpersonal (e.g., family communication and health, doctor-patient communication, social networks and social support), organizational (e.g., communication about health care reform, health delivery systems and communication patterns, health care teams and decision making), and mediated contexts (e.g., health persuasion and campaigns, the influence of media on health attitudes and behaviors, health informatics).

Courses are offered in 8 week terms. Students take one course at a time and are eligible for financial aid.

Online Certificate in Environmental Sustainability

STARTING Fall 2010: This 5-course certificate addresses the growing demand for courses that concentrate on the key issues associated with sustainability and the environment. Students in the Environmental Sustainability certificate program will learn about the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, and social systems of the world; the implications of our actions on the environment; factors that determine the sustainability of human institutions, organizations, cultures, and technologies; finding solutions through innovative approaches; and expanding future options by practicing environmental stewardship. Following the classical definition of sustainability, the aim is to develop citizens, businesses, and societies that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.

Courses are offered in 8 week terms. Students take one course at a time and are eligible for financial aid. The first course, Environmental Sustainability, begins on August 23, 2010.

College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES)

ACES ACCESS Community College Initiative: The College of ACES at the University of Illinois continues to work with the Community College system in Illinois to offer online courses with associated labs in a collaborative effort. Many community colleges made cuts to their agriculture programs during tight budget times but still have a clientele in need of educational opportunities. Students register at their local community college and pay that rate for these courses. Courses may then be transferred to any of the 4-year agriculture schools in the state. Intro to Animal Sciences was taught in fall 2009, Intro to Crop Sciences was taught in spring 2010, Intro to Soil Science will be taught this fall 2010, and Intro to Horticulture will be taught in spring 2011. For more information about the program please contact Heather Miller, program director at 217-265-6568 or via email at hmiller1@illinois.edu.

Online Master's Programs in ACES are growing! The four online M.S. degree programs in the College of ACES are rapidly growing and serving needs of working business professionals in Illinois, nationally and globally! The Online M.S. Degree programs in Agricultural Education, Crop Sciences, Food Science and Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) are growing rapidly in student numbers. The NRES and Crop Sciences programs have doubled in size in the last twelve months and serve approximately 200 students. The Food Science program recently moved from being a site-based program in Chicago to a completely online program effective May 2010. These programs are well received by students because they provide a synchronous component using the course delivery system "Elluminate" (see www.illuminate.com) for weekly discussion and lecture sessions. This they note is one of the major strengths of all of the four programs because it allows for effective networking and a strong sense of interaction between faculty and students. For more information about these programs please contact Heather Miller, program director at 217-265-6568 or via email at hmiller1@illinois.edu.

Office of Continuing Education Promotions

In December, 2009, Dr. Ken Gustin was promoted to Assistant Head of Operations. Ken oversees our systems and business processes and manages our instructional development team. In February 2010, Adam Fein was promoted to Assistant Head of Programs and Services. Adam oversees our online/site-based programs and our student and faculty services, in addition, he manages the program coordinator team.



IBHE PLAN—ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA

Two years after endorsing a new strategic plan for the state's colleges and universities, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is poised to reenergize the *Public Agenda* as the surest path to Illinois' economic recovery.

"In the first two years of implementing the *Illinois Public Agenda*, we have made significant strides in building a solid infrastructure to achieve the goal of increased educational attainment, which is the foundation of a vigorous economy," Carrie J. Hightman, IBHE Chairwoman, said. "But in that same period, the state's fiscal condition and the economic standing of its citizens have continued to deteriorate. We must now build on that foundation with strategies that will bring tangible results – more citizens with relevant, high-quality college credentials to ignite the Illinois economy."

...The General Assembly also enacted a new grant program to spur baccalaureate completion partnerships between community colleges and four-year institutions to serve place-bound students needing convenient, affordable options for completing their bachelor's degree. Given the state's fiscal problems, the program is yet to be funded, although it remains a priority investment proposal in the IBHE budget. Other legislative measures enacted to implement the *Public Agenda* include a baccalaureate transfer grant program, reform of the training of school principals, the College and Career Readiness Act, and expansion of quality dual credit opportunities. On the policy front, the state has made progress on educational attainment, college readiness, workforce development, and college financing. Illinois is one of 33 "alliance" states through Complete College America, a national initiative designed to raise to 60 percent the proportion of Illinoisans with a marketable college credential by 2025. Reaching that level of attainment will require an additional 4,400 college degrees or certificates each year for the next 15 years – a total of 600,000 new degrees.

Illinois also is among the states to adopt the Common Core Standards designed to connect what students learn in high school with what they are expected to know when they get to college. A part of that effort is development of a new high school assessment that will test a student's readiness to begin college-level coursework. "Again, while some of these efforts are still in the development stage, they are notable achievements in moving Illinois toward increased student success at all levels of the educational pipeline, a vital recommendation of the *Public Agenda*," Chairwoman Hightman said.

One policy matter that has advanced is a series of partnerships between Northern Illinois University and its neighboring community colleges for bachelor's degrees in high-demand occupational fields, a move fostered by the Board of Higher Education through its program approval responsibility.

In addition, at the direction of the legislature, the Higher Education Finance Study Commission is finalizing recommendations for reforming the way Illinois finances its higher education system. The Commission will recommend the state move toward a performance based model to allocate a share of new state resources to achieving state goals: increased degree production and improved affordability for students.

The *Public Agenda* has moved onto college and university campuses as well. Chicago State University has created new positions aimed at strengthening freshman retention and bolstering the institution's graduation rate. Western Illinois University and Black Hawk College have created a unique "2+2" alliance that will allow students to enter Black Hawk and graduate from WIU debt free.

..."The *Public Agenda* process uncovered a 'prosperity gap' in Illinois that, in essence, has divided Illinois into two states – one well-educated and well-off, and a second that is undereducated and struggling financially," Hightman noted. "If anything, this prosperity gap, which is the direct result of disparities in educational attainment by race, ethnicity, income, and geography, may well have worsened in the past two years, given the nation's and Illinois' relentless economic doldrums.

"That makes the importance of moving the needle through the *Public Agenda* all the more urgent," Hightman said. "The sooner we erase this gap, the faster Illinois will emerge from its economic purgatory."

The Board will also receive the final report from the Higher Education Finance Study Commission, which is being submitted to the General Assembly in December.

“The work of the Commission to develop a higher education funding scheme related to degree completion is an example of the *Public Agenda* in action” said Hightman. “The Board looks forward to incorporating the Commission’s recommendations into our work on a higher education budget and our policy plans.”

From IBHE press release, email news 11/24/10

ISACORPS

Illinois Student Assistance Commission

ISACorps Overview —In view of the need for greater access to higher education in the State of Illinois, ISAC is pleased to announce another college access and outreach initiative to benefit the entire state.

Funded by the College Access Challenge Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Education, ISAC has created the **ISACorps**. Starting in the fall of 2009, the ISACorps will deploy up to 78 field staff across the state to enhance and expand ISAC’s college access and outreach programs and services to help students navigate the process of applying to and entering college.

Policymakers and educators are increasingly concerned about the barriers low-income students face in preparing for, and applying to, college. Lower-income students, students in low socioeconomic status schools, and students who come from families with no college-going experience are typically less likely to reap the benefits of attending college. A study by the American Council on Education demonstrated that 20 to 30 percent of college-going students who were eligible for federal financial aid did not file a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA).

Other studies have indicated that, while low-income students may have high educational aspirations, they find college entrance exams, financial aid applications, and college application processes difficult to navigate. These students often have to rely on guidance counselors who have very large caseloads and who juggle many responsibilities aside from helping students get into college.

Recognizing the importance of strong, timely pre-college counseling for low-income and first-generation students, the high quality personal service ISACorps members will provide to students builds on ISAC’s most successful outreach strategies including College Access Vertical Teams, WhatsNextIllinois (WNI), and KnowHow2GOIllinois.

ISACorps members will be responsible for assisting students with career exploration, college selection, test preparation, scholarship searches, application completion, and the financial aid process. In addition, they will build and enhance ISAC’s partnerships with local schools, businesses, and nonprofits in order to deliver free career and college planning and preparation services to students from families with no prior college-going experience.

The ISACorps is comprised of recent college graduates recruited from the undergraduate class of 2009 and will be assigned to community college districts in Illinois. While the community college districts were used to equitably divide up the state, the ISACorps is not affiliated with the community college system.

Each ISACorps member has been trained by ISAC to reach out to students to help them prepare for the college-going process. The initial seven week training covered a variety of topics including, but not limited to: community organizing; academic barriers to postsecondary education; financial barriers to postsecondary education; social barriers to postsecondary education; counseling and mentoring skills; college access marketing; and professional and public speaking skills. Ongoing training is provided to ISACorps members as is provided to other professional ISAC College Access and Outreach staff.

from the ISAC website, <http://www.collegezone.com/media/ISACorpsOverviewandContactInformation.pdf>

Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education

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.

We're on the Web!
www.icche.org

**ICCHE
on
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Add ICCHE as one of your Facebook Groups. Contact Rick Carter, rcarter@uiu.edu for more information.

ICCHE Listserv

To send a message to all the people subscribed to the ICCHE Membership list, send an email to icche@lists.eiu.edu and staff will post to the listserv.

Note: You must be listed as a member of ICCHE in order to use the listserv.

Be sure to check out the great information at:

Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)
<http://www.ibhe.org>

And

Illinois Community College Board (IBHE)
<http://www.iccb.state.il.us>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 9, 2011	3–5 PM Executive Board Meeting, DoubleTree Hotel, Chicago
February 10 – 11, 2011	ICCHE Annual Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Chicago
April 8, 2010	Upstate Regional Meeting, University of Illinois, Oakbrook
April 15, 2011	Downstate Regional Meeting, University of Illinois, Springfield
September 29, 2011	3 – 5 PM, Executive Board Meeting, Starved Rock
September 29, 2011	5 PM – 9 PM, Networking and Dinner
September 30, 2011	8 AM – 12 PM, ICCHE Fall Retreat

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:

*Robin Nash
Manager, Alternative Education
Oakton Community College
1600 East Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Ph: 847-635-1971
Email: rnash@oakton.edu*

*Hilary Ward Schnadt, Ph.D.
Assoc. Dean for Acad. Services and Programs
University Center of Lake County
1200 University Center Drive
Grayslake, IL 60030
Ph: 847-665-4004
Email: HWschnadt@ucenter.org*