

ICCTA BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 14, 2006

The ICCTA Board of Representatives took the following actions at its June 10, 2006, meeting at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield, Illinois:

- Adopted a resolution directing ICCTA to explore all options in clarifying the intent and application of the State Governmental Officials and Employees Ethics Act to community colleges (see resolution);
- Heard an update on the spring 2006 legislative session. The Illinois community college system received an overall increase of 1.7 percent in state funding, which is still 13 percent below FY01 funding levels;
- Requested the names of trustees interested in serving on two new task forces:
 - **Joint Task Force on Community Colleges** (established by House Joint Resolution 122) -- The task force will perform a comprehensive study of the Illinois community college system and submit a report to the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor by December 31.
 - **College Insurance Program Task Force** (established by Senate Joint Resolution 91) – The task force will study the issue of including the City Colleges of Chicago in the College Insurance Program;
- Asked the ICCTA Government Relations Committee to research legislation allowing community colleges to levy a tax to fund Illinois Veterans Grants;
- Learned that the Illinois Community College Board is changing its meeting dates from Fridays to Mondays; expanding its committee structure to create Academic Affairs and External Affairs / Public Relations committees; researching guaranteed admission at four-year universities for top community college students; and updating its web site;
- Encouraged trustees to serve on Association of Community College Trustees committees for 2007;
- Were reminded that ACCT's summer retreat will take place at the same time as ICCTA's executive retreat (August 11-12) in Chicago. The 2006 ACCT Congress will be held in Orlando on October 11-14;
- Elected the following ICCTA officers for 2005 - 2006 by unanimous ballot: **Kathy Wessel** (DuPage) – vice president; **Jerry Wright** (Illinois Central) – treasurer; and **Jeff May** (Joliet) – secretary. **Dr. Clare Ollayos** (Elgin), currently vice president of ICCTA, will assume the presidency on July 1, succeeding Tom Bennett (Parkland);
- Recognized ICCTA's officers, regional chairs, committee chairs, and liaisons for 2005-2006;
- Honored the 11 recipients of ICCTA's 2006 Trustee Education Awards:
 - First-time Recipients: **Diane Gallagher** (Highland), **Patricia Jones** (Lake County), **Carol Larson** (McHenry), **Rev. Albert D. Tyson, III** (City Colleges), **Dave Wilcoxson** (Illinois Valley)
 - Two-time Recipients: **Carol Chiligris** (Richland), **Stephen Kubiczky** (Triton), **Vickie Miller** (Danville), **James Polk** (Illinois Central), **Kathy Wessel** (DuPage)
 - Three-time Recipient: **Jake Rendleman** (Logan)
- Recognized the sponsors of ICCTA's annual convention:
 - Illinois Community College Risk Management Consortium – ICCTA President's Reception sponsor
 - Illinois Community College Procurement Consortium – Friday luncheon
 - Illinois Community College System Foundation – Paul Simon Student Essay Contest

***The next ICCTA Board of Representatives meeting will take place
on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.***



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2006 ICCTA Award Winners

Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award:	Linden A. Warfel (Parkland)
30-Year Trustee Award:	Don Brewer (Logan) Dr. Robert Ehrich (Illinois Central) Leland Glazebrook (Lake Land) Betty Meents (Kankakee)
Trustee Education Award:	Diane Gallagher (Highland) Patricia Jones (Lake County) Carol Larson (McHenry) Rev. Albert D. Tyson, III (City Colleges) Dave Wilcoxson (Illinois Valley) Carol Chiligris (Richland) – 2 nd Award Stephen Kubiczky (Triton) – 2 nd Award Vickie Miller (Danville) --2 nd Award James Polk (Illinois Central) – 2 nd Award Kathy Wessel (DuPage) – 2 nd Award Jake Rendleman (Logan) – 3 rd Award
Advocacy Award:	Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs (Danville)
Business/Industry Partnership Award:	Carlisle SynTec Inc (Kaskaskia) DaimlerChrysler Motors Co. (Moraine Valley)
Certificates of Merit:	John J. Daley & Dr. John E. Donahue (Moraine Valley) Dr. Robert C. “Hobe” Scholz, Jr. (John Wood) Dr. Zelema Harris (Parkland) Dr. Robert K. Luther (Lake Land) Dr. Gretchen J. Naff (Lake County) Dr. Charles Novak (Richland) J.D. Ross (Joliet)
Distinguished Alumnus Award:	Marija Zivanovic-Smith (DuPage)
Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership Award:	Bruce L. Connors (Kaskaskia)
Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award:	Jason Wallace (Heartland)
John M. Lewis Outstanding Legislator Award:	The Hon. Richard J. Durbin
Lifelong Learning Award:	Margot McAfoos (Rend Lake College)
Meritorious Service Award:	Guy Alongi (ICCB) James L. Kaplan (IBHE)
Outstanding Faculty Member Award:	Kathy Sturgeon (Danville)
Outstanding Legislator Award:	The Hon. Debbie Halvorson The Hon. William B. Black
Pacesetter Award:	Katie Hopkins (Elgin)
Paul Simon Student Essay Contest – 1 st place:	Peggy Michael (Prairie State)
Paul Simon Student Essay Contest – Hon. mention:	Amra Salihefendic (Rock Valley)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1965 the Illinois Community College system was established in state law and community colleges were designated as “special districts” under the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and as such, they are considered “units of local government”; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Illinois General Assembly approved the “State Government Officials and Employees Ethics Act” (the Ethics Act) which became state law; and

WHEREAS, in October 2005, the Illinois Attorney General issued a legal opinion that states in part “that community college districts are ‘special districts’ under the Illinois Constitution of 1970. As such they are considered ‘units of local government’.” The opinion continues to state “Because community colleges districts constitute ‘public institutions of higher education’ . . . they fall within the definition of ‘State Agency’ as the term is used in the Ethics Act. Because the definition of ‘State Agency’ includes community college districts, it is my opinion that they . . . are not government entities authorized to adopt their own ethics ordinance or resolution. Rather community college districts and their employees must comply with the Ethics Act for State Agencies and State employees and the personnel policies established by the Illinois Community College Board”; and

WHEREAS, initial research reveals that there appears to be no legislative intent to consider community college districts as State Agencies under the Ethics Act; and

WHEREAS, local government autonomy and local control of community college districts could be threatened under the provisions of this opinion; and

WHEREAS, community college districts throughout Illinois have complied with requirements of the Ethics Act as determined by state law pertaining to “units of local government”; and

WHEREAS, community college districts wish to maintain high ethics standards and policies;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (the Association) work to clarify the intents and applications of the Ethics Act to community colleges;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association explore all possible avenues of gathering information;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association delegate authority to its Executive Committee to accept the information, make decisions and take actions that it determines to be in the best interest of community colleges; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Executive Committee of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association shall keep all trustees informed of its decisions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Illinois Community College Trustees Association shall work closely with the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents to achieve the best possible results;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association shall coordinate a plan to share the expenses of these efforts among the various participating community colleges as determined by the Association’s Executive Committee.

**Adopted by the Board of Representatives
Illinois Community College Trustees Association
June 10, 2006
Springfield, Illinois**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

ICCTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

June 8, 2006

PRESENT: President Tom Bennett, Dr. Clare Ollayos, Kathy Wessel, Ed Ledvina, Jeff May, James Polk, Dr. Wayne Green, Dr. John O'Keefe, Carol Chiligris, Dr. Joan DiLeonardi; ICCTA Honorary Member Robert Maher; and ICCTA staff Mike Monaghan, Kim Villanueva and Tom Ryder

President Tom Bennett convened the meeting at 8:35 PM. The committee discussed the Illinois Attorney General's recent opinion that community college districts are "state agencies" for the purpose of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. This opinion conflicts with numerous Illinois statutes, case law and previous AG opinions that define community college districts as "units of local government." Trustees and presidents are concerned that this opinion may foreshadow an encroachment on the local control and autonomy of community colleges.

Executive Committee members reviewed several options recommended by the law firm of Robbins Schwartz Nicholas Lifton and Taylor, Ltd.:

- 1) Take no action;
- 2) Pursue a legislative remedy by amending the Act to specify that community colleges are local governmental entities; and/or
- 3) Seek a judicial determination of legislative intent through a civil suit.

By consensus, the Committee agreed to recommend to the ICCTA Board of Representatives that ICCTA pursue litigation to clarify the application of the Ethics Act to community college districts. Colleges will be asked to voluntarily participate in the lawsuit, with contributions not to exceed \$3,000 per district.

The committee adjourned at 9:42 PM.