

2010 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Adopted March 20, 2010

ICCTA WILL WORK TO PASS BILLS THAT:

1. Protect local control of community colleges

A 2007 Judicial Circuit Court decision reaffirmed the concept that community colleges are units of local government with locally elected or appointed governing boards. ICCTA will continue to protect local control of community colleges and oppose any legislation that infringes on this authority.

2. Provide full and equitable FY2011 funding for community college operations

ICCTA works to secure the best state funding support that is possible. Since Fiscal Year 2002, the community college system has experienced significant reductions in state support. In addition, suburban “collar county” colleges are seeking relief from local property tax caps, which have hindered their ability to raise needed operating revenue.

3. Continue capital construction program for higher education

The first capital construction program in nearly a decade was approved by the Illinois General Assembly for FY 2010. Community colleges were approved for 35 projects totaling \$358 million in state-funded construction. Projects must now be bonded, released and constructed. ICCTA will pursue FY 2011 capital construction projects. Community colleges have capital needs that are approaching \$1 billion statewide.

4. Restore funding for the Monetary Award Program

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) is operated by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to provide need-based grants to students. FY 2010 funding for MAP grants was reduced by \$225 million – half the amount provided in FY 2009. This will fund 85% of the student grants in the first semester of the FY 2010 school year and zero in the second semester. Approximately 130,000 college students will be without student grants during FY 2010.

5. Restore funding and support additional growth in adult education programs

ICCTA promotes initiatives to improve funding for adult education programs. The immediate goal is to restore state support that has been reduced owing to state budget issues. Over one million people in Illinois qualify for adult education services.

6. Expand the community college retirees health insurance program

ICCTA worked to create a health insurance program for community college retirees. Now in its tenth year of operation, the College Insurance Program (CIP) is a successful health program for the retirees of a community college. More work needs to be done to tell legislators of future needs to improve access to the CIP for all community college retirees and their dependants.

7. Insure adequate funding levels for current public pension and health insurance plans

8. Recognize bonafide student organizations in the Election Code for purposes of appointing deputy registrars who can conduct student voter registration events. Current law recognizes many civic organizations that qualify their organizations as deputy registrars. Students are not recognized.

- 9. Continue to meet and educate candidates for the Illinois General Assembly and U.S. Congress**
Many members elected the November 2010 elections are new to the legislative process and unfamiliar with community colleges. Comprehensive efforts by trustees and presidents should be continued to meet and educate legislative memberships regarding community college issues and needs.
- 10. Clarify a sick leave provision in the State Universities Retirement System Article** for employees of the community college and university systems.
- 11. Improve the Property Tax Limitation Law**
Amend the current law to allow extensions to increase by the Employment Cost Index (currently the Consumer Price index) or 5%, whichever is least.
- 12. Support direct appropriation and design/build authority for capital projects**
ICCTA supports changing the role of the Illinois Capital Development Board in overseeing community college capital projects.
- 13. Support 100% funding of Illinois Veterans Grants**
The FY 2010 state budget provided \$7.2 million in funding for Illinois Veterans Grants, or 50% of the expected need. ICCTA supports full funding of this program, especially in light of the growing number of student soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 14. Support impact fee authority for community college districts**

For additional information, contact ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 or iccta@communitycolleges.org