

## 2011 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

*Adopted 2/14/11 by the ICCTA Board of Representatives*

### 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 FY2012 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 2012 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. Demand for the MAP program is increasing at an unprecedented rate. In FY 2011, approximately 150,000 eligible college students were denied MAP grants due to lack of state funds.

**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 and fully fund the College Insurance Program for community college retirees**

ICCTA worked to create the College Insurance Program (CIP), a successful health-insurance program for Illinois community college retirees. More work needs to be done to tell legislators of the need to improve access and fully fund the CIP for all community college retirees and their dependents.

**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**  
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**
- 15. Support automatic transfer of community college credits to four-year universities**
- 16. Support Associate Degree Nursing programs**  
ICCTA strongly supports community college Associate Degree Nursing programs and opposes attempts to implement "BSN in 10" (which would make a bachelor's degree the minimum education required for entry-level nursing).
- 17. Oppose the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's proposal to issue bonds to fund Monetary Award Program grants for community college students**
- 18. Support Senate Bill 3 (Gov. Quinn's proposed debt restructuring plan)**

**ICCTA WILL MONITOR THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:**

- 19. Public pension and benefits reform**
- 20. K-12 collective bargaining reforms**

*For additional information, contact ICCTA at 1-800-454-2282 or [iccta@communitycolleges.org](mailto:iccta@communitycolleges.org)*