

AWARDS BANQUET

“Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in. That everyone may receive at least a moderate education appears to be an objective of vital importance.”

– Abraham Lincoln
March 9, 1832



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June 9, 2006
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center
Springfield, Illinois



**PRESIDENT'S
WELCOME**

June 9, 2006

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. Created as an advocate for the state's public community college boards, the Trustees Association has grown in influence and effectiveness, just as the colleges have grown to meet the needs of nearly one million students each year.

Tonight we welcome you to our annual celebration of excellence in the Illinois system. We will honor several trustees, presidents and public officials who have been unwavering supporters of the community college movement. In addition, we will recognize some of our outstanding community college students, alumni, faculty, and business partners.

A special welcome is extended to our convention sponsors: the Illinois Community College System Procurement Consortium, the Illinois Community College Risk Management Consortium, and the Illinois Community College System Foundation.

We hope that you enjoy tonight's award presentations. Thank you for sharing our pride in Illinois' outstanding system of community colleges -- because *"Nobody Does It Better."*



Thomas M. Bennett
President, ICCTA
Trustee, Parkland College

**PAUL SIMON
STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST**

- **Sponsored by the Illinois Community College System Foundation** •

Named after the late U.S. Senator (and cofounder of the Illinois community college system), this competition is open to all students at ICCTA member colleges. The 1st place winner will receive a \$500 scholarship for fall 2006 educational expenses, and the Honorable Mention winner will receive a \$250 scholarship.



1ST PLACE
Peggy A. Michael
Prairie State College

"How My Community College Changed My Life"

When I was about to graduate high school, my parents asked me a simple question: "Do you want to go to college or would you like to have your bedroom redone?" They knew my answer. I was a poor student, with a proclivity for "partying." Much to their delight, I chose the latter, and spent many unproductive days in my new floral bedroom sleeping off hangovers. That simple decision three decades earlier, plus my parent's desire to keep a buck, left my life to frequent self-doubt and financial struggle. I took the road most traveled, deeply rutted with the weary footprints of others.

A half century is almost upon me and I have three kids and two divorces under my belt. After the second divorce, I found myself working in a grocery store wondering about my life. Did I ever think standing for hours waiting on customers would be the most creative use of my time? Was bringing home \$125.00 a week satisfactory? Is this what I planned? That was the problem; I hadn't planned much. Extraneous factors prodded me to examine my choices. I grew close to a few co-workers who were attending community college, and they encouraged me to do the same. Somewhere I realized I had left my life to circumstance. I desired choices and I was inspired to go back to school.

The academic challenge forced me to examine old myths and new possibilities. I believed I was too old to return to school; fortunately, I realized it is the very nature of learning that makes a person “child-like.” Curiosity is the secret to eternal youth and more beneficial than Alpha Hydroxy. Also, in high school I was a student who would not learn math because I was afraid of numbers and avoided them. When I returned to college, math was an unavoidable requirement. I had to quash my fears and decide I could learn it. Subsequently, I achieved A’s and a new love -- algebra.

Originally, my major was mass communication. When I took a communications class, we were tested to determine a career that fit our personality. As I previewed my career list, I was startled to see the word “Naturalist.” Suddenly, I remembered who I was. I was the girl who hung out in the forest all summer and I am the woman who likes to hike and explore nature. There, on paper was the possibility for my life’s work. The next semester I changed my major to science.

Because I work full-time and have two children at home, I will be much older when I finally see my degree. Still, it is more about the journey than the destination. In the final analysis, how has community college changed my life? I can’t say it has changed it as much as it has expanded it, illuminated it and impressed wonder upon it. I’m excited again and for that I am forever grateful.

HONORABLE MENTION

Amra Salihefendic

Rock Valley College

“Opportunity for a Girl”

When I was only five years old, my life became very dark and cold, sort of lifeless. On June 25, 1991, a time so long ago yet still I can remember it like I am living it today, citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced genocide. I was little and so confused as to why my home, my family and my life had to be taken away from me. Physically I was there, but mentally I died. I had a body, but never had a shadow, because during the war the sun never shined.

I came to America for freedom, for success, and the most important reason, for opportunity. In my family no one has attend college; it was out of question for numerous reasons. My family has given me as much as they could, but they could not pay for me to attend college. I couldn’t accept the little money they had, because they worked so hard for it. Their tired and ill bodies had very little to give to my brother and me. So I accepted that fact, because life is precious and I am grateful with the little things I get.

I speak four languages (Bosnian, German, Spanish and English). As the years passed by in high school, I’ve watched my friends fill out applications for universities and colleges. It broke my soul into pieces. I knew I had little chance, and some of the students that applied did not love school as much as I did. They didn’t take the pride in it as I did. I read books in four different languages. They only spoke one. When I got out of high school, my father surprised me on my birthday and told me I would be attending Rock Valley College. I will never forget that 18th birthday.

My first semester was so interesting to me; I loved the classes I was in. I studied and learned so much, I couldn’t believe I was in college. The most thing I appreciate about this community college is that it is affordable for students like me, who dream big and have goals in life, but financially can’t afford expensive tuition. As semesters passed by, my small goals became bigger and bigger. When I first started I wanted to be a police officer; now my dream leads me to work for the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Rock Valley also offers pre-requisite classes so that if you didn’t score high enough on the ACT exam, you still have a chance to go to a college. Most universities and colleges won’t even look at your background or hear from you if your ACT score is not meeting their requirements. This community college has opportunity written all over it. It gives foreign students a chance to attend college, not only the rich and wealthy. I am just very proud of where I am, proud I can tell someone I am attending college, for this country, for my family, and for me.

OTHER STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST ENTRANTS

Joseph Bruggeman
Black Hawk College

Rachel Chacon
McHenry County College

Sharon Chikwanda
Parkland College

Danielle Clay
Lincoln Land Community College

Ashley Dearborn
Wilbur Wright College

John Gorman
Elgin Community College

Mary Ann Hall
College of Lake County

Carolyn Hansen
Moraine Valley Comm. College

Marcy Holub
Lewis & Clark Comm. College

Dawn Honer
Kaskaskia College

Christina Jenkins
Illinois Valley Community College

Lesa Kelly
Kishwaukee College

Alexandra Burgos Lopez
College of DuPage

Jeanne Reany
Southwestern Illinois College

Mary Redman
Oakton Community College

Audra Russell
Southeastern Illinois College

Andrea Sabin
Highland Community College

Joanne Sandy
Carl Sandburg College

Rhea Shirley
Lake Land College

Susan P. Varvel
Richland Community College

Ann Vogel
John Wood Community College

Eleisha Whitney-Olson
Heartland Community College

Jared Yater
Sauk Valley Community College

Joshua Yates
Shawnee Community College

LIFELONG LEARNING AWARD

ICCTA's Lifelong Learning Award celebrates the accomplishments of Illinois' community college students over the age of 50. Nominees must be currently enrolled students who have completed at least six credit or non-credit courses.

Gisela A. Ambron
Kaskaskia College

A native of Germany, Gisela Ambron has opened two bookstores, driven a semitrailer, raised pheasants, and worked in Iran and Libya (where she learned Farsi and Arabic). In 2003 she and her husband moved to central Illinois to help raise their granddaughter, and she enrolled in English as a Second Language classes at Kaskaskia College. Ambron has since taken courses in keyboarding, piano and karate. "Kaskaskia College has taught me that no matter how old you are, you can still learn and realize your dreams, that you still have a future that is worth living," she says.

Luke G. Cosme
Prairie State College

Luke Cosme first began taking classes at Prairie State College in the early 1970s – two decades before his retirement from the structural engineering field at age 83. He continues to pursue his hobbies of art, stained glass, and photography, and this academic year he mastered the digital camera. "At age 94, I still feel that I have a lot to learn. Prairie State College has been the place to do just that," says Cosme, who was featured in the "Lifelong Learners" section of the school's spring 2006 schedule.

Susan Doering
Parkland College

Susan Doering's first foray into higher education ended when she dropped out of college after her first year in 1965. Twenty years and five sons later, she was encouraged by her employer to take a class at Parkland College. Then she learned about Parkland's new Accelerated Cohort program. "I thought if taking one course was going to impress my boss and the Human Resources department – think what getting my degree would do!" she says. Now retired, she became a proud college graduate last month. Three of her sons now plan to finish their associate degrees at Parkland as well.

Mittie Jean Ealy

Malcolm X College

A successful businesswoman, community volunteer, and ordained minister, Mittie Jean Ealy founded the not-for-profit Ealy Early Achievers Ministry in 2003. She soon realized the need to enhance her technology skills in order to run the organization effectively. In 2004, at the age of 90, she enrolled at Malcolm X College to pursue a degree in computer science. "Malcolm X College is the gateway to what I am trying to accomplish," says Ealy. "It has been and will continue to be the next step in the process I have followed all my life, to learn and to encourage others to do the same."

Walter "Bud" Geister

Elgin Community College

Walter "Bud" Geister survived the battlefields of World War II Europe and established a successful law practice in suburban Chicago. But he never excelled in the classroom until he began studying art at Elgin Community College. Over the past 30 years, he has earned nearly 70 credit hours and a 3.7 GPA. "I was extremely happy when I realized that in my eighties I could still make a perfect score on a college exam," says Geister. "In fact, I could make a better score on a college-level exam in my eighties than in my twenties. I come to one conclusion: Elgin Community College has increased my ability to think, with age."

Margot McAfoos

Rend Lake College

A Rend Lake College student since 1970, Margot McAfoos has taken 64 credit courses and 84 non-credit courses in such areas as computer science, public speaking, and journal writing. She notes that these classes not only helped during her employment years (as training and PR director with the Shagbark Girl Scout Council) but that "My role as a perpetual student keeps me fit and mentally alert" during her retirement. McAfoos also serves on the advisory board of RLC's Institute for Learning in Retirement and has been an enthusiastic ambassador of lifelong learning throughout the college district.

Ruth E. Parks

Spoon River College

Ruth Parks' love of music has continued well beyond her career as a choir teacher in the Macomb public school system. For the past 25 years, she has volunteered as the director and guiding force behind the Spoon River College Singing Seniors Chorus. The 50-member group performs in communities throughout west central Illinois, allowing participants to join together in song – and earn college credit at the same time. In nominating Parks for this award, SRC staff member Angela Thomason wrote, "Ruth is a breath of sunshine and happiness to all who are in her path. Her commitment to lifelong learning is apparent to all who know her."

Nadine Ryan

Southwestern Illinois College

After the untimely death of her husband, Nadine Ryan found an outlet for her grief by taking writing and psychology classes at then Belleville Area College. This was followed by courses in art, advertising, and design. When she returned to work for the state of Illinois, she took advantage of its employer-sponsored education program and is now pursuing paralegal studies at Southwestern Illinois College. "One of the benefits of attending school is being around younger students," Ryan says. "They have helped keep me young and alert. They remind me of what life was like when I was starting out!"

Peter J. Shannon

Moraine Valley Community College

The Illinois Veterans Grant program allowed this Korean War veteran to enroll at Moraine Valley Community College in 1986. Since then, Peter Shannon has taken computer science, welding and auto mechanics classes ("A good craftsman will always refine his skills as technology changes," he says). He recently took a food sanitation class at Moraine Valley in order to assist his wife with her goal of opening a restaurant – despite his diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. "I plan on taking classes for as long as I am able," Shannon says. "I was tired of being a 'cave man' and not knowing what is going on in today's world. School motivates me to keep learning."

GIGI CAMPBELL

STUDENT TRUSTEE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Student trustees created this award in 1996 to recognize exemplary leadership by their peers. The honor is named after the late Gigi Campbell of Prairie State College, who ably served her fellow students with her spirited advocacy of educational opportunity for all. This year's recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship for educational expenses in fall 2006.

Yolanda H. Beamon
Prairie State College

Prior to becoming student trustee, Yolanda Beamon successfully revitalized Prairie State College's then-disbanded Black Student Union, serving as its president and winning recognition as the "Most Outstanding Member of BSU." Her board service has been marked by similar outreach and commitment to her fellow students. "Whether I'm wearing the 'Yolanda Beamon: Student Trustee' hat, or the 'Yolanda Beamon: PSC Student' hat, knowing that students depend on me is a motivation that keeps me going day in and day out," she says.

Margaret Boehle
Joliet Junior College

Though only 17 years old upon taking office, Margaret Boehle has shown wisdom and maturity beyond her years. In addition to her perfect attendance at Joliet Junior College board meetings, she played a key role in JJC's recent presidential search, participating in candidate interviews and traveling to Baltimore for an on-site campus visit. She also served as vice chair of the Illinois Community College Board's Student Advisory Committee. "Student trustees need to know that they must not only represent the students at board meetings, but make themselves available to the students, and represent the school statewide," Boehle says. "Being student trustee has helped me to realize just how important the position is, and how influential it can be."

Natalie Coers
Lincoln Land Community College

"My adventure as a Student Trustee did not begin in the typical manner," recalls Natalie Coers. Appointed to fill a vacancy, she intended to serve on an interim basis until a new election could be held. "However, once I had the opportunity to see what the position entailed, and saw the need for leadership in the student government, I decided to run," she says. Under her leadership, students at Lincoln Land Community College openly debated such issues as a smoking ban and student organization funding. The campus also came together to donate 1,500 pounds of food to the Central Illinois Food Bank.

Sharon Spicer
Southwestern Illinois College

"It has always been about the students' has been my motto during my term as the student member of the Southwestern Illinois College Board of Trustees," says Sharon Spicer. True to form, she polled students on all three SWIC campuses about their concerns and goals - and came to her first board meeting with a thorough analysis of the feelings of the student body. She also successfully represented student views during the often-heated discussions to improve food service at the Granite City campus.

Jason Wallace
Heartland Community College

Jason Wallace was elected as Heartland Community College's student trustee in April 2005, but his term was delayed when his National Guard unit was activated and deployed to Iraq. In June, only 48 hours after returning home from the Middle East, he assumed office and attended ICCB's Student Leadership Institute in Chicago. "In the Air Force there are three core values that I carry close to my heart: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all that we do," he says. "This not only allows me to be a good soldier, but also an excellent student trustee." Although Wallace has earned his associate degree and is still on active military duty, he enrolled in two courses at Heartland this spring so that he could complete his term as student trustee.

GARY W. DAVIS
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

ICCTA's newest award was established in 2005 to honor the association's retiring executive director. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the pursuit and support of ethical leadership and decision-making in their fields of work and volunteer service.

Bruce L. Conners

Vice president of educational services
Kaskaskia College

Bruce Conners' influence has been felt at the campus, state and national levels. As an instructor and administrator at Kaskaskia College, he developed an ethical decision-making process and a "Core Values 101" program that has led the college to become one of the fastest-growing institutions in the nation. As president of the Illinois Community College Faculty Association, he greatly expanded faculty participation in statewide governance issues, including ICCB's new Leadership and Core Values initiative. Conners also served as the first director of ICCB's Center for Applied Ethics, where he coordinated an ethical fitness training program that reached more than 3,000 faculty and staff statewide.

Andy Simko

Former student trustee
Illinois Valley Community College

Throughout his two years as a student trustee, Andy Simko kept student interests at the forefront of every decision he made. He represented their concerns in the drafting of Illinois Valley Community College's new Mission and Values statement and encouraged others to become involved in student leadership activities. He also served as one of just two student trustees on the search committee to select ICCB president/CEO Geoffrey Obrzut. "I am not the 'boss' of the students," Simko once said in describing his role as student trustee. "In fact, they're my boss. I have 4,500 bosses. Through me each student has a voice. I listened and made sure their needs were met."

Dr. Eileen Tepatti

Acting vice president of academic affairs
Lincoln Land Community College

Trustees and employees at Lincoln Land Community College are unanimous in their praise of Eileen Tepatti's steady guidance during difficult times. "She became our acting vice president following the abrupt resignation of her boss and continued through the resignation of a president and a prolonged period of uncertainty as the board struggled to hire an interim president," recalls trustee Craig Findley. "Largely because of Eileen's singular leadership . . . the college did not falter – it excelled. For the first time in years, we witnessed the resurgence of collegiality, interdepartmental cooperation and enthusiasm for the mission of the college." Lincoln Land has also seen record growth in its dual credit enrollment, regional education programs, and cooperative agreements with neighboring institutions.

The Hon. George Van Dusen

Mayor • Village of Skokie
Oakton Community College

George Van Dusen has demonstrated his commitment to open and inclusive government during more than 30 years of public service. Under his leadership, the village of Skokie has received the Governor's Home Town Award in honor of the high level of citizen involvement in the decision-making process. Mayor Van Dusen has also handled tough ethical dilemmas with grace and creativity. When confronted with a Ku Klux Klan gathering in ethnically diverse Skokie, he acknowledged their right to free speech – but called upon village citizens to assemble at another venue in a Peace and Harmony convocation. These values are reflected in his lectures as an adjunct faculty member at Oakton Community College.

BUSINESS/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes an Illinois business that has built a successful workforce-training alliance with a local community college.

Carlisle SynTec Inc.

Kaskaskia College

Since 1992, Carlisle SynTec has partnered with Kaskaskia College to provide leadership and computer-skills classes to nearly 40 percent of its workforce. The company pays up to 90 percent of the cost of tuition and fees for eligible employees, who can upgrade their skills on the job while earning an associate degree from Kaskaskia. In addition, Carlisle SynTec has opened its Industrial Maintenance certification program to other local businesses who might not have the employee base or on-site training facilities available. "Working together has provided a win-win situation," says plant manager Andy Furman.

Cook County Bureau of Health Services

Malcolm X College

As one of the nation's largest public health systems, the Cook County Bureau of Health Services was eager to find a partner to assist in "growing its own" registered nurses. Malcolm X College's associate-degree nursing program fit the bill. A 30-month evening nursing program was developed for selected Bureau employees, with the Bureau covering the cost of tuition and books in return for three years of uninterrupted service upon RN licensure. Over 300 applications were received for the initial 35 slots. "Malcolm X's willingness to collaborate with the Bureau has been immeasurable," says Bureau chief Dr. Daniel H. Winship. "We are fortunate to partner with an institution of higher learning of this caliber."

DaimlerChrysler Motors Company

Moraine Valley Community College

Moraine Valley Community College is the only Illinois school (out of 31 colleges nationwide) to offer DaimlerChrysler Motors Company's innovative College Automotive Program. CAP provides area dealerships with trained entry-level auto technicians, who must complete 1,280 internship hours with a mentor technician. The program's reputation is such that enrollment in MVCC's automotive technology courses have more than doubled. "Since coming on-board in late 1999, Moraine Valley has worked to make their program very successful, and we look forward to building upon our current relationship," says Michael Collins of the DaimlerChrysler Academy.

Freedman Seating Company

Wilbur Wright College

The seven-year alliance between Wilbur Wright College and Freedman Seating Company has grown from a basic welding class into "Freedman University." Freedman University has all the elements of a traditional college but is based in the workplace setting. Employees are reimbursed for credit classes -- and receive a \$1,500 bonus each year while taking community college courses. With Wright's support, Freedman University recently expanded its manufacturing skill courses to unemployed individuals in the community. "Our relationship with Wright College has been strong and invaluable to the increased productive and personal development of the Freedman Seating team," says CEO Gerald Freedman.

IMI Cornelius

College of DuPage

IMI Cornelius is the world's leading producer of beverage dispensing systems. In 1999, it joined with the College of DuPage to deliver three geometric dimensioning classes to IMI engineers. The partnership has grown and now includes course offerings in supervisory skills, leadership, ESL, and team-building exercises. "At a time when many manufacturers have restricted or stopped training, IMI Cornelius has continued to upgrade the skills of their employees," says Joyce Abel, executive director of COD's Business and Professional Institute.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 146

Richland Community College

Since 1998, Richland Community College and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 146 have cooperated to increase educational opportunities for electrician apprentices. Aspiring electricians who are completing their five-year journeyman certification may now earn an associate in applied science degree at the same time. Eligibility for the degree program extends beyond the boundaries of Richland's district into 12 counties in central Illinois. "This is an important partnership that brings tangible economic benefits to the members of this community," says IBEW business manager Jay Dunn.

KONE, Inc. Escalator Division

Black Hawk College

KONE, Inc. is the world's fourth largest elevator and escalator company. Its North American operations are based in Moline, where it uses Black Hawk College as its preferred workforce training partner. BHC provides more than 30 different specialized programs for KONE's technical and shop employees, legal department, and management teams. "Our workforce training alliance with Black Hawk College has spanned 14 years," says KONE quality manager Joseph Raskin. "KONE believes strongly in the community college's ability to provide ongoing skill improvement for our workforce."

Midcoast Aviation, Inc.

Southwestern Illinois College

Southwestern Illinois College's partnership with Midcoast Aviation, Inc., began in 1970 when Midcoast joined the school's aviation maintenance technology advisory board. SWIC now provides customized training and performance improvement services for nearly all of Midcoast's 1,000 employees. The college's Center for Training Innovations also helped Midcoast secure a grant to educate more than 300 employees in programs required by the Federal Aviation Administration. "We are honored to have our joint efforts with SWIC recognized," says Midcoast president Kurt Sutterer.

Shawnee Mass Transit District

Shawnee Community College

Shawnee Community College and Southern Most Area Rural Transportation (SMART), operated by Shawnee Mass Transit District, have found a unique way to beat rising gas prices. The two have entered into a two-year agreement to provide low-cost transportation to students in Illinois' five southernmost counties. "If students can't make it to class without a car and they don't get a ride, they can't come or they're late to class," says college PR coordinator Sarah Mulford. "Both of those things make them less likely to succeed." Thanks to a federal grant, SCC students pay a reduced fare for round-trip, curb-to-curb service. A total of 150 student passes were issued during fiscal year 2006.

Target Corporation

William Rainey Harper College

When Target Corporation needed to teach its managers and supervisors to communicate more effectively with Spanish-speaking employees, William Rainey Harper College came to the rescue. Within two weeks, Harper had designed a 20-hour "Spanish for Supervisors" curriculum for retail employees, including a customized CD and workbook. The pilot program was tested at Target's Wheeling facility and recently was offered at stores in Minnesota. "The expansion of the program to multiple locations proves that Target values the benefits it is deriving from this successful workforce training program," says Harper board chair Laurie Stone.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Meritorious Service Awards are presented to public officials and other friends of community colleges who have contributed to the advancement of the Trustees Association and community college education in Illinois.

James L. Kaplan

Chair

Illinois Board of Higher Education

First named to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 1999, James Kaplan was appointed board chair by Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2003. He is the managing partner in the law firm of Kaplan and Sorosky and past chair of the Illinois State Advisory Council on the Education of Children With Disabilities.

During his time on the IBHE board, Kaplan has been a powerful advocate for higher education in Illinois. Highly supportive of issues impacting community colleges, he has long argued for improved funding for higher education during the most difficult economic environment in the state's history. Kaplan is responsible for successfully promoting the first increase in state funding for higher education following four years of continuous decline. This translates into a 1.7% increase in state funding for community colleges for fiscal year 2007.

Kaplan also listened when community college trustees, presidents and students identified the need to restore funding for "Special Populations" grants for essential support services. Through his leadership, \$3 million was provided this year to establish the Disadvantage Student Success Grant.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Certificates of Merit are granted to individuals (usually former trustees or presidents) who have made a significant contribution to the Trustees Association, the Illinois community college system, or an individual member college.

Dr. Robert K. Luther

Retiring president

Lake Land College

Dr. Robert Luther's tenacious leadership has made Lake Land College – and the Illinois system – one of the finest in the country. Upon his arrival 18 years ago, Luther was faced with a divided board, declining enrollment, a deteriorating campus, and a \$1 million deficit. Today Lake Land is fiscally sound and boasts one of the fastest growing enrollments in Illinois. Luther has ably served as chair of numerous statewide committees on adult education, strategic planning, workforce development, and financial aid. He has also been an eloquent voice for downstate rural concerns on legislative and policy issues. "I feel fortunate to work with such a professional, caring president who always puts the students' needs first," says Lake Land board chair Mike Sullivan.

Dr. Gretchen Naff

Retired president

College of Lake County

Dr. Gretchen Naff has devoted 35 years of her professional life to higher education. During her 10 years as president of the College of Lake County, she worked tirelessly on initiatives for new college facilities, faculty and staff development, and the expansion of more than 50 degree and certificate programs. Naff was a major advocate for the creation of the University Center of Lake County, forging relationships with area school districts, colleges, businesses and units of local government. Her efforts to diversify CLC's faculty and student population earned her the Latino Coalition's Community Outreach Award.

Dr. Charles Novak

Interim president
Illinois Valley Community College

Few presidents have left their mark like Chuck Novak. A former president of Olney Central College and Richland Community College, he has found a niche as interim president, serving stints at Morton College and Illinois Valley Community College (where he started as a dean in 1975). His hallmark straight-shooting manner continues to draw praise – and get things done. IVCC’s student newspaper recently lauded Novak as “competent, personable, honest and trustworthy. . . . We can’t say how much we appreciate him not coating everything in a layer of you-know-what. His shoes will be hard to fill.”

J.D. Ross

Retired president
Joliet Junior College

J.D. Ross recently retired after 31½ years at Joliet Junior College, including seven years as its president. Under his leadership, the college developed a Core Values initiative, an employee recognition program, and new distance-learning offerings. Ross also promoted peaceful collaboration among various college constituencies, resulting in "win-win" collective bargaining negotiations based on fairness and trust. "It’s been a great opportunity to work at Joliet Junior College," says Ross. "Not only is it the oldest community college in the country, but I believe it’s one of the best, and it is so because of the faculty, staff and students that we have here."

At the request of the nominating institution, the identity of one of our Certificate of Merit recipients has been kept confidential until tonight’s official announcement.

ADVOCACY AWARD

The ICCTA Executive Committee created this special award to honor its recipient’s dedicated leadership in advocating for the needs of students and the Illinois community college system.

Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs

Chair
Illinois Presidents Council

Alice Marie Jacobs serves as president of Danville Area Community College and also, for the past year, as chair of the Illinois Presidents Council. During her term, she has led the Council through difficult times as federal and state funding for important programs has been jeopardized. Her efforts to publicize issues affecting community colleges (such as the proposed sale of the state’s student loan portfolio) have benefitted students, employees, and trustees alike.

Jacobs has been especially effective in building coalitions with the higher education community, the media, and other advocacy partners; one highly visible success was the resolution of personnel management issues caused by pension reform.

JOHN M. LEWIS OUTSTANDING LEGISLATOR AWARD

The John M. Lewis Award is presented to an elected official who demonstrates, through his or her exemplary public service, recognition of the importance of higher education to society. Named after John M. Lewis, the founding president of ICCTA and the Carl Sandburg College Board of Trustees, this year marks the first time that the award has been presented to a member of Congress.

The Hon. Richard J. Durbin Assistant minority leader *United States Senate*

Praised by *Time* magazine as one of “America’s 10 Best Senators,” Richard J. Durbin was elected by his colleagues in December 2004 to the U.S. Senate's second-highest ranking Democratic leadership post. Durbin's election as assistant minority leader marked only the fifth time in history that an Illinoisan has served as a Senate leader.

During his 10 years in Washington, D.C., Sen. Durbin has proven to be one of the community college movement’s most trusted allies. He has supported a number of important federal initiatives impacting higher education. In 2005, when the President’s budget eliminated \$54 million for career and technical education programs, he successfully led the campaign to restore the much-needed funding. This year, faced with a similar budget decrease, Sen. Durbin initiated a bipartisan “Dear Colleague” letter for all members of the Senate to sign in opposition to the proposed funding cuts.

“Senator Durbin has been very effective for higher education in Illinois,” says ICCTA executive director Michael Monaghan. “He has always been available for community college advocates to explain their issues and listens with genuine interest.”

OUTSTANDING LEGISLATOR AWARD

Each year ICCTA honors select members of the Illinois General Assembly for their continuing support of the Illinois community college system. This year’s recipients have a special connection to Illinois community colleges.

The Hon. Debbie Halvorson Majority leader *Illinois Senate*

Debbie Halvorson is the first woman to serve as majority leader in the Illinois State Senate. A graduate of Prairie State College, she has been a champion of community colleges even before her election to the Illinois General Assembly in 1997.

Always accessible, she is a strong advocate for college students and understands the challenges they face in their pursuit of higher education. She has also been an outspoken protector of both local and state funding sources for community colleges and the college board’s statutory local-control rights.

Sen. Halvorson has dedicated considerable effort to maintaining open lines of communication with community colleges and ICCTA. Recently she spent an evening at Prairie State College with the five community colleges whose board members and presidents comprise ICCTA’s South Suburban Region. Those conversations revealed local funding and student financial aid concerns that needed to be addressed by the General Assembly. Sen. Halvorson responded immediately to her college constituency, sponsoring legislation that corrected these and other issues that were identified.

The Hon. William Black

Assistant minority leader
Illinois House of Representatives

Bill Black is the deputy minority leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, serving as the Republican floor leader during debates on all issues. Elected to the House in 1986, he has served and/or chaired numerous committees, including the Higher Education Committee and the Higher Education Appropriations Committee.

Drawing upon his background as an administrator at Danville Area Community College, Rep. Black is of education's most respected and knowledgeable voices in Springfield. He has sponsored legislation that benefits community colleges and their students every year for the past 20 years. Among his accomplishments: passage of legislation to transfer adult education programs and GED testing to the Illinois Community College Board, and the creation of a special revolving fund for ICCB.

Rep. Black's opposition to bad initiatives is as effective (and media-worthy) as his ability to pass positive legislation. This year he effectively opposed the sale of the state's student loan portfolio and consistently voiced concerns about low education funding levels during committee deliberations.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

John J. Daley and Dr. John E. Donahue

Retired trustees
Moraine Valley Community College

Retired trustees don't pass away – they just help their colleges in other ways. Such is the case with Jack Daley and John Donahue. When Moraine Valley Community College decided to seek an \$89 million bond referendum last March, trustees and administrators were unanimous in their choice of advisory committee co-chairs. Daley (a former ICCTA president) and Donahue (now a member of ICCB) accepted the challenge – and successfully won passage of the largest referendum in the college's history. "Their efforts have demonstrated how passionate a trustee can be about an institution he really loves and believes in, and how that commitment provides strength that can overcome obstacles and accomplish wonderful things," says MVCC board chair Sandra Wagner.

Dr. Robert C. "Hobe" Scholz, Jr.

Retired trustee
John Wood Community College

Dr. Robert "Hobe" Scholz has given 25 years of service to John Wood Community College, including four years as board chair. First elected in 1977 (just three years after JWCC was founded), he worked diligently to establish the college as a legitimate entity in the community. One-third of the district's high school graduates now select John Wood as their college of first choice. Scholz was also key to the development of the Orr Agricultural Center, the nation's only shared facility between a land-grant university (the University of Illinois) and a community college. "While Dr. Scholz left the board in April 2005, his influence continues to be experienced and his legacy is assured," says JWCC president Dr. William Simpson.

30-YEAR TRUSTEE AWARD

ICCTA created a 30-Year Trustee Award to recognize our longest-serving board members. This year's recipients can proudly claim 30 or more years of service on their Illinois community college board.

Don Brewer

John A. Logan College

Leland Glazebrook

Lake Land College

Dr. Robert Ehrich

Illinois Central College

Betty Meents

Kankakee Community College

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Guy Alongi

Chair

Illinois Community College Board

Guy Alongi is no stranger to community colleges. His father, Jerome "Mimi" Alongi, was a charter member of the John A. Logan College Board of Trustees and served as its chair for several years. Guy himself is a Logan alumnus and, since 2003, has served higher education as chair of the Illinois Community College Board.

As chair of ICCB, Alongi has guided the community college system during the toughest fiscal environment in Illinois history. He led the move to preserve \$5.5 million in "Formula Impact Grants" and regularly speaks to the Governor's Office on important state funding initiatives. He also promoted the restoration of funding for student support services that resulted in a \$3 million "Student Success Grant" in FY 2007.

Outside the educational arena, Alongi is executive director of the Perry County Housing Authority. He also serves as vice chair of the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council and Headstart for Perry, Monroe, and Randolph counties. A former finance commissioner for the city of DuQuoin, Alongi is a past president of the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities.

PACESETTER AWARD

The Pacesetter Award honors those individuals who have graduated from an Illinois community college within the past five years. Taking advantage of the unique educational opportunities provided at reasonable costs, these recent alumni began their journey toward their personal or professional goals at their local community college.

Leanne Canady

Registered nurse, Psychiatric unit • St. Mary's Hospital
Richland Community College (2005)

Leanne Canady was 46 years old when she enrolled in Richland Community College's nursing program. "The day I graduated from Richland, my four children, my husband, mother and friends were standing in the crowd cheering me on," she recalls. "I could see the pride in many of my teachers' faces as I walked in the processional. These were the teachers who challenged me to accomplish those things I never dreamed possible. . . . I believe I am a better person as a result of my community college experience. I feel that I have more to give back to my family, my community and my nursing occupation."

Tony Dalaly

Jaguar automotive technician
Adjunct faculty member, Moraine Valley Community College
Moraine Valley Community College (2004)

Tony Dalaly admits that he was intimidated by the prospect of attending Moraine Valley Community College after high school. "The campus was so big that I feared I might not be up to the challenge," he says. Overcoming his fears, he has evolved from a shy student to an Automotive Service Excellence-certified technician of high-end luxury cars. He is also giving back to his alma mater as a part-time instructor in the automotive technology program. "Moraine Valley has shown me that I am capable of finding solutions to the problems that I am faced with concerning my career, as well as problems that may occur in my life," says Dalaly.

Katie Hopkins

Coordinator of student volunteer and community outreach programs
Elgin Community College
Elgin Community College (2003)

Katie Hopkins lives and breathes community colleges. A recipient of Elgin Community College's "Grow Your Own Teachers" scholarship, she mentors ECC students daily and plans to write her doctoral thesis on community college issues. "Thanks to ECC, I've risen educationally on academic scholarships, I made it my priority to establish a lifelong connection to the institution, and I've even met my future husband," Hopkins says. "I found who I am, where I want to go, and who I want to spend my life with - and that's more than anything Northwestern University could've offered me. Thank you, ECC!"

Steven L. Martin

Certified physician assistant, Emergency department • Kirby Hospital
Danville Area Community College (2002)

A former Special Forces pararescuer, Steve Martin was forced to end his military career due to debilitating health issues. He found a renewed sense of self while attending Danville Area Community College - even volunteering as a visual aid to two blind anatomy students. His DACC experience helped him persevere when he was diagnosed with Guillain Barré syndrome in 2004. "I am now a successful physician assistant who practices in the civilian sector as well as in the military," says Martin. "I maintain the same compassion now, as a provider, that I encountered as a patient. Without DACC, I would not have had the guts to push myself to survive and succeed."

Jacqueline Marquardt

Admissions and marketing director • Heartland Health Care Center
Illinois Valley Community College (2002)

Attending Illinois Valley Community College allowed Jacqueline Marquardt to stay close to home and continue her involvement in family and community life. She credits her IVCC marketing internship at Illinois' popular Starved Rock State Park with preparing her for her current position as a community relations director in the highly competitive healthcare industry. "I feel fortunate that IVCC's motto 'No place so close can take you so far' has applied to me," says Marquardt.

Heather Payne

WINS counselor / Adjunct nursing faculty • Kaskaskia College
Kaskaskia College (2001)

Heather Payne often tutored other nursing students while attending Kaskaskia College. "I believe this is where I began to realize how much I liked the idea of teaching," she recalls. When a new Will Increase Nursing Success (WINS) counseling position opened up at Kaskaskia, she jumped at the opportunity to return to her alma mater - and changed her graduate major to nursing education. "After only a few months in this position, I realized how much teaching in the community college setting was what I wanted and needed to do with my life," Payne says.

Daniel K. Pearson

Deputy fire chief • Buffalo Grove Fire Department
College of Lake County (2002)

Like many non-traditional students, Dan Pearson enrolled at his local community college in order to enhance his career opportunities. It worked; shortly after graduating from the College of Lake County, he was promoted from captain to deputy fire chief. "My education gave me the tools I needed to succeed in my career," he says. "The investment in my future with an education offered by community college is something that can never be taken away." Community college is also becoming a family tradition for Deputy Chief Pearson: one of his daughters is enrolled at William Rainey Harper College, and another graduated from McHenry County College.

Anni Poppen

Creative director and owner • LMNtal Design
Parkland College (2004)

Anni Poppen originally enrolled at Parkland College with dreams of becoming a veterinarian. The death of her father and mentor led her to interrupt her baccalaureate studies - and to change her career focus to the more creative field of graphic design. She now runs a successful home-based design business with clients in Chicago, New York, Las Vegas and the Bahamas. "I started at a community college and I ended at a community college," Poppen says. "I couldn't be more grateful for the experiences I had at Parkland College, and I surely wouldn't be where I am today without them."

Michael Wedderburn

Private mathematics tutor
Malcolm X College (2003)

A native of Jamaica, Michael Wedderburn left a career in the banking industry to pursue advanced studies in mathematics. "I'm presently pursuing my lifelong dream of gaining a solid college education," he says. "With a college education, I will be able to contribute something valuable to my family, my community, and even be a role model for all my younger peers. . . . Pursuing a graduate degree in math education is an investment in not only my future but in the futures of other students. One hand washes the other."

Quintin Williams

Doctoral student in occupational injury prevention
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Kankakee Community College (2003)

Like many first-generation college students, Quintin Williams attended Kankakee Community College while working 12-hour night shifts at a local factory. Badly burned in an industrial accident, his work experiences motivated him to pursue a career in the occupational health and safety field. He is now completing the University of Minnesota's PhD program on a full scholarship, bypassing a master's degree along the way. Recently featured in Kankakee's billboard advertising campaign, Williams says, "I think my mother really has started to understand what I have accomplished. . . . If it wasn't for KCC, I don't know how I would have made it."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

This honor symbolizes the accomplishments of those individuals who graduated from Illinois' community colleges more than five years ago. Many have achieved success in artistic, technical and humanitarian endeavors; others have found personal fulfillment through higher education.

James F. Allsup

Founder and chief executive officer • Allsup Inc.
Southwestern Illinois College (1976)

As the brains behind the nation's first Social Security assistance company, James Allsup has enabled more than 70,000 people with disabilities to obtain \$1.2 billion in government programs and services to which they are entitled. Allsup Inc. claims more than half of America's Fortune 500 companies as corporate clients, and it has been cited as one of the fastest growing private businesses three years in a row by *Inc.* magazine. "Belleville Area College, now Southwestern Illinois College, provided me a close-by and affordable pathway to my future," says Allsup, whose wife and daughter also hold SWIC degrees.

Dr. Gail Bushur

Associate veterinarian
Newton Veterinarian Clinic and Richland Veterinarian Center
Lake Land College (1997)

The youngest of 10 children, Gail Bushur is one of the eight who have graduated from Lake Land College. She also holds the distinction of being ICCTA's first Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award winner. A product of the University of Illinois' highly competitive veterinary school, she has returned to her hometown to practice large-animal medicine – one of the few female veterinarians to do so. "I do not know if I would have made it to become a veterinarian if it wasn't for my community college," says Dr. Bushur, "and for that, I am constantly thankful for Lake Land College."

Mike Crouch

Manufacturing engineer • Intier Automotive
Kaskaskia College (1987)

A sports injury ended Mike Crouch's budding athletic career at Danville Area Community College. Returning to his hometown of Centralia, he found work in the auto parts business, until another medical crisis caused him to leave that job as well. "A colleague enlightened me to the fact that education was the key to opening doors to my future," says Crouch. "I looked no further than my own backyard and enrolled at Kaskaskia College to pursue an associate degree in drafting technology. It was at Kaskaskia that I found that anything was possible."

Michael Deno

Assistant state's attorney / First chair, Felony trial division
Cook County State's Attorney's Office
Moraine Valley Community College (1986)

Michael Deno admits that "prior to attending Moraine Valley Community College, my efforts and grades in school could best be described as average. Although I wasn't one who detested school, I also had never put my best effort forward. . . . I had a great opportunity to achieve higher goals. I seized that opportunity and dedicated myself to my studies." Graduating summa cum laude from Moraine Valley, he went on to attend the prestigious John Marshall Law School. "I have always felt that attending Moraine Valley Community College was the best decision I made in my academic career," he says.

Dr. John J. Derango

Cosmetic dentist
Illinois Valley Community College (1970-71)

A founder of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, John Derango presents his innovative clinical techniques to colleagues through international workshops, journal articles and dental "study clubs." His LaSalle office also serves as a model site for Illinois Valley Community College's dental hygiene students. A self-described "late bloomer," Dr. Derango claims that IVCC's "How to Study in College" course first set him on the path to success. "In that year at IV, I discovered that I had the ability to excel in rigorous courses and the passion to one day make a difference in the world," he says.

B'Ann N. Dittmar

Market president • US Bank
Highland Community College (1992)

B'Ann Dittmar has not let her age or gender hinder her progress in the male-dominated field of banking. Starting out as an entry-level teller in order to "learn the ropes," eight years later she was promoted to president of Galena's US Bank at the age of 30. She now oversees two banks in northwestern Illinois. "I believe that attending Highland Community College helped me to develop the confidence and develop the leadership skills necessary to be successful in business today," says Dittmar, who also served as co-chair of Highland's successful 2004 referendum campaign.

The Hon. Scott Eisenhauer

Mayor • City of Danville
Danville Area Community College (1984)

Already well-known as the broadcast "voice" of Vermilion County sports, Scott Eisenhauer is the youngest mayor in Danville's 179-year history. During his three-year tenure, he has overcome a \$3 million deficit, created a Mayor's Youth Council, and initiated a neighborhood revitalization project that has resulted in the removal of 70 decrepit structures. He has also continued his long-standing practice of dedicating at least 1,000 hours to volunteer service each year. "In 2003, I was elected mayor of Danville and immediately reflected on the lessons I learned while sporting the Danville Area Community College Jaguar logo," says Eisenhauer. "I am evidence of the endless possibilities available with that solid foundation."

Charles Fitzgerald

Supervisor • Shields Township
College of Lake County (1982)

Charles Fitzgerald has devoted more than two decades to public service. A former congressional aide, he has worked for the American Red Cross and as an independent public policy consultant. He has also won three elections as supervisor of Shields Township, the most economically and culturally diverse township in Illinois. "Community colleges, because of whom they serve, gave me a great sense of community and county as a whole," says Fitzgerald. "The College of Lake County was a window of the entire community, allowing me to become more aware of the social, economic and educational needs throughout the county."

Sarah Frey-Talley

President and CEO • Frey Family Corporation
Frontier Community College (1999)

Sarah Frey-Talley was only 8 years old when she sold her first product – melons – to a produce manager at a nearby grocery store. At age 19, she convinced her local Wal-Mart to hire her as its pumpkin supplier. And last year, her family-run corporation provided nearly 400 Wal-Marts with fruit, fall ornamentals, and 1 million pumpkins. Along the way, she attended Frontier Community College (enrolling when she was 16). “The hard science and business courses gave me the foundation I needed to create and build my own agribusiness,” says Frey-Talley. “As a business person, I can honestly say it has turned out to be one of my best investments.”

Sandra K. Galvin

Vice president of finance • Lakeview Museum of Arts & Sciences
Carl Sandburg College (1994)

Sandra Galvin had intended to take some classes at Carl Sandburg College to help with record-keeping on the family farm. Instead, she earned her bachelor’s degree and CPA certificate and helped open an engineering firm’s business office in Romania. She now serves as vice president of finance at Lakeview Museum, where she is coordinating a joint \$100 million construction project with Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria’s riverfront district. “CSC was the stepping stone for me that turned out to be a catalyst for a successful business career,” says Galvin. “I’ve never looked back, except to remember how lucky I am that CSC was there for me!”

Dorothy L. Gaters

Athletic director / coach • John Marshall High School
Malcolm X College (1966)

A true sports legend, Dorothy Gaters has led the John Marshall High School girls’ basketball team to seven state championships, 22 city championships, and an amazing 827 wins – more than any other high school coach in Illinois history. During her 29 years of coaching, she has also encouraged countless girls from Chicago’s tough West Side to go on to college, including her alma mater, Malcolm X College. “Ms. Gaters not only exemplifies the positive qualities of a coach, she ‘walks the walk’ off the court as well,” says Olympic bronze medalist Kimberly McQuarter (a former Gaters student and current Malcolm X women’s basketball coach).

Andrea Gonder

English teacher • Crystal Lake Central High School
McHenry County College (1998)

When Andrea Gonder first entered the doors of McHenry County College, she and her two children were destitute and homeless. The supportive staff at MCC encouraged her to stay in school, and her positive experiences inspired her to become a teacher. She is now in a role where she herself mentors students spanning the spectrum from English-language-learners to college-bound seniors. “I do believe that if there were not community colleges, many people in my position would not be able to obtain an education,” Gonder says. “Literally, my life is a viable, wonderful life, thanks to McHenry County College. They gave me life!”

The Hon. Debbie Halvorson

Majority leader • Illinois Senate
Prairie State College (1998)

Who could be a better example of Prairie State College’s motto “Start Near, Go Far” than Sen. Debbie Halvorson, Illinois’ first female Senate majority leader? “Reflecting on my education, I realize how important community college has been in my life,” says Sen. Halvorson. “Every time I speak at a press conference, or when I am serving as the presiding officer of the Illinois State Senate, I remember the importance of my communications degree. . . . I’m proud of my community college background, and more than pride, I feel a sense that our community colleges are continuing their commitment to new generations of young people, and to older generations as well.”

Alan P. Kirk

Chief operations officer and co-owner • Total Home Health, Inc.
Elgin Community College (1985)

As the son of an Elgin Community College faculty member, Alan Kirk learned early in life that a good education was vital to self-growth. ECC was the logical choice for the first part of his college education, he says, because “it gave him more time to mature while he pondered what else he wanted to study and what to do with his life.” Kirk continues to encourage personal and professional development for the 65 employees of his family’s home healthcare company.

Andy Lock

Owner • AndyCam
Kankakee Community College (1975)

Sports fans may not know Andy Lock, but they have certainly seen his behind-the-scenes work at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 2005 World Series. The owner of a successful video production company, he oversees camera operations for such professional sports teams as the Chicago White Sox, Bulls, Bears and Blackhawks. He recently scored an Emmy Award for a TV segment produced for the Miami Heat basketball team. Lock has also produced and directed Kankakee's Easter Seals Telethon for 20 consecutive years – a volunteer effort in which “I am still working with the people I met years ago at Kankakee Community College.”

Robert H. Perkins

Senior regional vice president • LaQuinta Management, LLC
John A. Logan College (1975)

Robert Perkins' father was one of the founders of John A. Logan College's biology department. “I have great memories of seeing my father at school,” Perkins says. “His presence made my community college experience very personal. He knew many of my professors, which encouraged me to attend class regularly and finish my assignments on time! This helped me early on to become very responsible and allowed me to have management experience at a very young age.” Perkins' early time-management experience comes in handy in his role overseeing 30 LaQuinta and Baymont hotels throughout Texas.

Rebecca G. Powell

Leadership Programs manager • Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Kishwaukee College (1987)

Rebecca Powell has known the best of times and the worst of times. The worst was when she and her three children were penniless and lived out of an old red Volkswagen with no floor. The best began when she enrolled at Kishwaukee College. “It turned out to be, without question, the single most important step in my life,” Powell says. “For the first time, I felt that I had options and that someone believed in me.” Today she builds upon her own experiences to provide crisis media relations and non-profit development training for corporate executives.

Jonathan Ross

Automotive instructor • Parkland College
Parkland College (1992)

“As an instructor at Parkland College, I get the chance every day to help people learn something new and become better at what they do,” says Jonathan Ross. “As an alumnus, I get to see people develop the same sense of pride I have for Parkland.” Ross' loyalty is shown by his sponsorship of the student-run Parkland Motorsports Club, which hosts an annual on-campus car show. He also established and continues to run the Automotive Youth Educational Systems program, a two-year dual-credit training effort for high school students. Parkland is one of just five Illinois colleges – and the only one south of Chicago – to offer the AYES program.

Bill Shields

Assistant professor • Workforce education and development
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Rend Lake College (1958)

Many staff members at southern Illinois community colleges can thank Bill Shields for their advanced degrees. As the off-campus recruiter for Southern Illinois University's Workforce Education program, he has assisted hundreds of employed individuals in returning to school and pursuing continued education. A member of the first graduating class of Rend Lake College's forerunner, Mt. Vernon Community College, Shields notes that “I used to work with a lot of younger people. Now I work more with older students, but I rely on a lot of the same experiences. I just never tire of helping people.”

Jennifer Watson

Assistant state's attorney • Macoupin County
Lewis and Clark Community College (1991)

“If the children of career military personnel are called ‘military brats,’ then I should be called a ‘community college brat,’” says Jennifer Watson, whose father has chaired the Lewis and Clark Community College Board of Trustees since 1983. “I have a lifelong relationship with Lewis and Clark and strong personal feelings about the power of community colleges to change lives. I experienced that power myself and have observed many other students experience the same empowerment.”

F. Kathie Whitley

Vice president of employee and labor relations
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Richland Community College (1984)

In 1982, Kathie Whitley began the Adult Re-Entry Program at Richland Community College. After earning her bachelor's degree, she was hired as an accounting intern at agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland Company. Today she is one of ADM's first female vice presidents, responsible for employee relations and labor contracts for more than 18,000 employees in Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean. Following the lead of Richland advisers, Whitley has organized a Women's Initiative Network, which matches ADM's female employees with mentors and sponsors frequent "lunch and learn" sessions.

Timothy J. Wiles

Director of research • National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
Illinois Central College (1985)

Tim Wiles is an internationally recognized sports historian. He has written several books and encyclopedia articles on baseball poetry, and his recitation of the classic "Casey at the Bat" is a highlight of the annual Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony. He credits Illinois Central College's English department for switching his career interest from accounting to literature. "ICC is the pivotal institution in my education and foundation into being a productive adult," Wiles says. "I value the high school and the universities, but ICC was the turning point."

Marija Zivanovic-Smith

Government programs senior professional • IBM Corporation
College of DuPage (1997)

Marija Zivanovic and her mother emigrated from war-torn Serbia in 1995 "with nothing more than a suitcase of clothes and hopes for a better life." On the advice of friends, she visited the College of DuPage "and realized the plethora of choices that COD had to offer." One of those choices was COD's Preferred Consideration Program with Georgetown University, where she pursued graduate studies in international politics. Fluent in four languages, she now works on an emerging issues team at IBM, developing policy in such areas as trade compliance, governmental ethics, the maturing workforce, and immigration.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER AWARD

Outstanding teaching helps make a college great, while faculty recognition enhances a systemwide emphasis on excellence. This award honors Illinois' community college instructors and their invaluable contributions to their students and institutions.

Carol Belt

Nursing
Shawnee Community College

As a registered nurse and an instructor for over 22 years, I still find sharing my love of nursing to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my life. . . . I also strive to teach each of my students to be a patient advocate and to ask questions that will be in the patient's best interest. I teach students that while a person is a patient in a healthcare facility, the nurse serves as the eyes, ears and voice of the patient.

Dorothy Bendix

Nursing
Kankakee Community College

Wow! It amazes me to realize that through the community college system, I have helped to educate over 1,000 nurses for the state of Illinois. . . . I have seen lives changed dramatically: women and men who come as freshmen in horrible financial and personal circumstances, or who have never before been able to support a family, go on to graduate and get employment in a field that gives them the skills to be successful in life.

David Bock

Computer science and animation
Parkland College

Teaching embodies many areas; it is more than just conveying a subject matter. The impact educators have on students can influence broad areas such as their interests, goals and career decisions. Such influences can have lasting impacts on student self-esteem, confidence and motivation. I believe instructors should always be mindful of this very important, yet exciting responsibility to shape and encourage students we've been honored to teach.

Dr. Virginia Brackett
Chair • English department
Triton College

My philosophy holds that education results in a broadening of our perceptions of the world, i.e., our learning community, only through interaction with individuals representing ideas that may vary from our own. The instructor guides individuals, whether in training programs or the undergraduate classroom, toward this realization, not only by offering opportunities for discussion, but also modeling behavior crucial to an environment of academic freedom. That behavior embraces free exchange of ideas, a modeling of change in reaction to those ideas, and thus promotes critical thinking.

Larry Creekmur
Horticulture
Kishwaukee College

My teaching philosophy centers on enabling students to become more capable of finding, evaluating and applying information as needed to resolve questions, problems and challenges that confront them in their jobs and lives. I strive to help students develop these abilities that will serve them after they leave our protective academic environment.

Steven Dyer
Drafting/design engineering and welding
Richland Community College

The only way a professor can have a clear philosophy of education is to take ownership of a program and invest in his or her students. When ownership of a program is not declared, the best interest of the program and students will not be brought to the forefront of the educational effort of the professor. . . . The only educational thought that the professor must be cognizant of is the success of the student, whether the student is destined for a career or a transfer path.

Joan Eastlund
Political science
Black Hawk College

An old adage among political scientists suggests, “When the politics bug bites, there is no cure.” I am most gratified when my students say they now tune into or read the news and it makes sense and sparks their curiosity to seek out more information. . . . I have heard from a number of former students who have gone on to work as government employees, staff members, campaign organizers, and even as elected officials. I have worked with thousands of our community college students, and it has been my honor.

Rest assured, our democracy is in good hands.

Ruth Eccles
Coordinator • Physical therapy assistant program
Morton College (posthumous nomination)

Ruth Eccles’ devotion to the physical therapy field kept Morton College’s PTA program alive – and tripled its enrollment – while other schools’ programs were cut back or eliminated. “That was her crowning glory,” says Morton academic advisor Christine Martin. “Insurance and Medicaid were backing away from funding PTAs, but Ruth just kept at it. It was like as if she knew it would turn around and somebody had to be there to run the program. She never gave up. Ruth lived and breathed the PTA program at Morton College.”

David England
Business
John A. Logan College

My philosophy of education begins with a very important foundation: A teacher must be ethically strong and a positive role model. If people do not believe in me, then they will not believe in what I say or do. My educational strategies are instruction, application and evaluation/feedback. . . . The educational process must include assessment principles that directly relate to my overall goals and objectives. Both my students and I must know if I am on track and going in the right direction.

Andrew Erbach

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning
Elgin Community College

As William Butler Yeats once stated, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." These words describe my enthusiasm for igniting passion for learning within my students. Simply transferring facts and skills from one individual to another is training, not education. To educate is to foster a curiosity about specific subjects or about learning in general that, in turn, drives individuals to explore life more deeply.

Jay Garrett

Psychology
Kaskaskia College

One of the things I do to be effective as an instructor is to create an environment within the classroom that is conducive to learning and personal growth. I do this by being genuine, treating students with respect, valuing their experiences, and encouraging the exchange of ideas. Students get excited about learning when they realize it is not about memorizing arcane theories and formulas. I find teaching at the community college level to be extremely rewarding when I can challenge students to think critically about the science of psychology and, at the same time, motivate them to examine their own attitudes and behaviors.

Dr. David V. Groeninger

History
College of Lake County

Approaching the study of history as an active process and method helps students not only retain specific knowledge of significant people, places and events from the past, but also to recognize the relevance of history for understanding today's social, political and moral issues. Knowledge of the past is a vital form of self-knowledge: to know what humankind has been and done is to know who we are. My hope is that such knowledge of the past, and the habits of thought necessary to obtain it, will help my students succeed in their future classes and careers and to live more meaningful lives.

Paul Hamill

Earth science
McHenry County College

"As an educator, he demonstrates exceptional technical skills in his discipline, a contagious enthusiasm for teaching, and a passion for serving both the internal and external college communities. Paul is the professional upon whom you can always call and know with confidence that he will assist in anyway he can. This quality, an inherent sense of integrity, well-honed communication skills, and a positive, supportive personal demeanor endear him to students and colleagues alike."

- Dr. Brian P. Sager , president of the MCC Faculty Association

William Robert Howard

Diesel technology
Southeastern Illinois College

As a diesel technology instructor, I instill in my students the desire to do every aspect of their career choice to the best of their abilities. I challenge my students by presenting information in a manner that causes them to think about the best possible solutions. I conduct myself in a professional manner so as to act as a role model for my students. I treat every student with the same respect that I demand of them. I will do everything possible to help my students achieve the highest level of confidence in their chosen profession.

Tamatha Hutton

Nursing
Spoon River College

Nursing has always been an important aspect of my life. Since I was a child, I loved to take care of others. My mother, being a nurse, has had a huge impact on me. I cherish the opportunity to help others by showing a sincere concern for them. . . . To me, the main purpose of education is not only to teach students subjects but also to assist students in bringing out their best in become caring persons when dealing with real-life situations.

Kaushalya (Koshu) Jagasia

English
Illinois Valley Community College

Education is and will always be important because it brings knowledge and skills that lead to a better way of life. I remember my parents' wise reminders that true education is a treasure that cannot be stolen; moreover, it can be spent lavishly without the balance ever diminishing! . . . Therefore, it is essential that as an educator, I genuinely invest in my students, my community, and my community college. . . . I hope that my students enjoy their educational achievements and value their education as a true treasure.

Delwyn Jones

Communications
Moraine Valley Community College

A well-rounded education is vital to students' success in leading a fulfilling life. Students often gain expertise in their field but lack the ability to get along with people. Some students have a high level of social intelligence but lack motivation or study skills. I know every student doesn't come to my public speaking class to become better speakers – they want a grade. I teach them the fundamentals of public speaking, but it is also my goal to help them understand how this course can help them in life.

Ronald Larner

Office technology
John Wood Community College

When I began teaching in August of 1961, I believed that all students wanted to study and earn an "A" in their coursework. I quickly realized that this was not true and started changing what I was doing so that as many students as possible would gain the knowledge that they wanted to gain. My statement to students is that in the classroom, it is my responsibility as an instructor to provide the best teaching that I am able to do. However, it is the students' responsibility to do their best to learn the subject matter that is being presented and ask questions about what they do not understand. When this happens, learning occurs.

Linda Lee

Computer information science
Carl Sandburg College

I am very honored to be nominated for this award but must admit that many days I go home thinking, "I could have done that better," or "Next time I'm going to try a different method." My philosophy of teaching is not far removed from the business world. To be successful in business, you have to have a product that has value to your customers. Students are our customers; therefore, I feel I need to put forth a product that is of value to them. If they cannot walk away from each class with a skill or understanding that has significance, then I have failed and wasted their time.

James Luedke

Business
Lake Land College

To be successful, education needs to accomplish three things: teach people *how to learn*, teach people *why it is important to learn*, and teach people *how to teach others to learn*. If our base of knowledge and understanding is to grow and develop, more individuals have to become involved and add to that base from different perspectives and backgrounds. . . . Given a chance, I believe education can open many wonderful doors for both individuals and for our world. Will we get that chance?

Arthur W. "Art" Meyer

Economics
Lincoln Land Community College

I think that education should prepare students to succeed in life by improving their technical, critical thinking, leadership, collaborative and communication skills. Education should also be a challenging, joyful, thought-provoking and transformational quest for new knowledge, perspectives, and patterns of thought. . . . Education should improve our lives with varied perspectives and patterns for organizing newly acquired knowledge.

Steve Mihina

Mathematics
Highland Community College

Every student entering community college, regardless of whether he or she starts at remedial level or advanced level, possesses untapped mathematical potential. Working with each student individually to identify his or her unique learning style – which is the key that unlocks his or her potential -- having fun in the process through the use of humor, and creating a warm, inviting classroom environment in which participation is encouraged yields vast rewards for both the student and the instructor.

Sharon Migotsky

Interdisciplinary humanities and English
Heartland Community College

... One of my formerly well-prepared students began missing classes and assignments. When I approached the student, he hesitatingly revealed that he'd been having some personal difficulties. I spent quite a bit of time trying to help him regain his footing in the class; he passed the course, the semester ended, and I thought no more about it – until Christmas two years later, when that student sent a card to thank me for believing he could finish the course at a time when he doubted his ability to finish anything. I keep that card thumb-tacked above my desk; on those frustrating days when it seems that no one's paying attention in class, the card reminds me of my teaching philosophy: Sometimes, students just need to know that someone else is vested in their educational success.

Ray Moddrell

Counseling
Southwestern Illinois College

After 35 years in higher education, I have but these simple truths to share. Although I have not had any connections with agriculture in my professional life, the motto of Future Farmers of America exemplifies my philosophy of how I work with college students. The motto is: *Learning to do / Doing to learn / Earning to live / Living to serve*. . . . I think all of us who have walked this path as educators have been a part of the illumination process. With all of the feedback I have received over the past 35 years and in my heart, I know it has mattered that we have walked this way. I have been blessed.

Dr. Karen Pinter

English and reading
Sauk Valley Community College

In Terry O'Banion's vision of a learning college, the role of a teacher or professor changes from one who imparts information, or professes, to one who becomes an "education provider": a guide, a facilitator, a coach, a professional who can assess learner needs and abilities and design and create "learning options." This vision removes the dichotomy of a teacher and student and places the learner at the center of the education process.

Kathy R. Sturgeon

Mathematics and physics
Danville Area Community College

My mission is to create leaders who reach their maximum potential while accepting responsibility for their actions; equip students to be self-learners by instilling discipline and critical thinking; and develop a community in which learning math and science is fun. . . . Although my goals seem lofty, they are attainable. Teachers should strive for excellence because they have a lasting effect on the community through the students' achievement, and I am very proud to be a launching pad for my students.

Joyce Wandel

Occupational therapy
Wilbur Wright College

I have been privileged to offer a multitude of people the opportunity to enter a profession that impacts the day-to-day quality of people's lives. I have strived to (and still continue to) contribute to building a healthcare workforce that reflects the diversity of peoples and values seen in our communities. I have been fortunate to be trained in a profession that is dynamic and demands change, reflecting new knowledge and skills; as I work to meet the challenge of bringing this to our students; I have learned to become a better teacher as well as a better occupational therapist.

Dr. Russell J. Watson

Psychology
College of DuPage

My 35-year career in education has taught me that effective teaching is less about imparting knowledge and more about facilitating learning. It is less about being the star and more about challenging students to answer tough questions on their own, and helping them find passion for learning deep inside their heart, mind and soul. . . . One of the highest compliments I've ever been paid came from a student who said that I had helped him realize that COD stood for "College of Dreams." This affirms for me that in this community college process, the energy one has and the passion one shows in their field can be contagious for others.

Larry Williams

Microbiology
Rend Lake College

The educational philosophy of my teaching career has been to give my students the necessary tools to reach their goals and be successful. The driving force behind this philosophy is my compassion and genuine concern for my students. . . . It has given me great satisfaction to see my students obtain their nursing licenses and develop successful careers. I also hope that my teaching has instilled in my students a passion for excellence in their field, and the belief that education is not just a method to obtain a job, but a continuing lifelong experience.

Elighie Wilson III

Coordinator • Communications program
Prairie State College

My philosophy of education has been formulated over 25 years of classroom instruction and coaching speech at the high school, university, and community college level. Working with students of varying levels of talent and ability taught me that every student has a unique perspective to contribute to discussion, and that in the long run, education should help students to develop life skills rather than simply help them to produce a classroom product.

RAY HARTSTEIN
TRUSTEE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award recognizes a currently serving trustee whose exemplary board service and leadership sets the standard for outstanding trusteeship in Illinois. The award is named after Ray Hartstein, the founding chair of the Oakton Community College Board of Trustees, a former ICCTA president, and an Honorary Member of the Trustees Association.

Richard A. Anderson

College of Lake County

One of the state's longest-serving trustees, Rich Anderson was first elected to the College of Lake County Board of Trustees in 1974 while attending the school full-time. A practicing attorney, he has served four terms as board chair, three terms as vice chair, and has been a member of every board committee. He served as president of the Trustees Association in 2001-2002, where he worked with ICCB to create a task force to address funding formula inequities. Reflecting his interest in the role of the trustee, Anderson has written articles on trusteeship and board governance.

Nick Mance and Richard Roehrkasse

Southwestern Illinois College

With a combined 28 years of board service, Nick Mance (an accountant) and Richard Roehrkasse (a software engineer) have teamed together to make Southwestern Illinois College a leader in planning and accountability. They jointly led a two-year re-engineering of the college's strategic planning system, resulting in a campuswide process viewed as a "best practice" for other educational institutions. Mance and Roehrkasse also formed a collaborative relationship with faculty, staff and administration concerning regional accreditation and have helped SWIC assume a pioneering role with the Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Program.

Marvin Scott

Rend Lake College

Marvin Scott's 28-year tenure on the Rend Lake College Board of Trustees has been marked by the establishment of a new campus, an Applied Technology Center, and sports facilities; the selection of a college president; and the expansion of programs in cosmetology, wireless communications, and customized employee training. As an advocate for southern Illinois colleges, he regularly closes his feed store and travels up to seven hours one-way to attend ICCTA meetings and Lobby Days. His near-perfect attendance at ICCTA's educational seminars has earned him three Trustee Education Awards.

Linden A. Warfel

Parkland College

Lin Warfel has selflessly devoted 40 years of his life to community service - 15 of those to Parkland College. An activist trustee, he has chaired state-level committees on community college funding, partnered with the Illinois Farm Bureau on education reform, and championed diversity, international education, and leadership and core values initiatives. As ICCTA's president from 2000-2001, he led the successful drive to establish a health insurance program for community colleges retirees. That year he also gave an acclaimed speech at ICCB's Leadership and Core Values Conference that continues to be read and discussed at Parkland's annual Leadership Development seminar.

**THE ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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Founded in 1970, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association represents the board members who govern the state's public community colleges. ICCTA's two-fold mission is to provide trustees with opportunities for legislative advocacy and educational development.

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