

Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert

May 14, 2008

CALL TO ACTION on FY09 Budget

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association has received information that the **next 36 hours** could be crucial in the development of the Fiscal Year 2009 state budget for community colleges in the House. This information comes to us directly from the staff of the Speaker of the House. To that end, ICCTA has submitted a Fiscal Year 2009 budget request in the House and is now initiating advocacy efforts to the members of the House of Representatives.

Please contact your House member by telephone within the next 24 hours to urge them to support the level of funding in the request, which is detailed below. If you do not know your House member's phone number, call the Capitol switchboard at (217) 782-2000 and ask for your House member's office. If the House member is not available, please leave a message with their secretary that you are requesting the Board of Higher Education level of funding for community colleges. **Also ask that community colleges become a high priority in the state's Fiscal Year 2009 budget.**

The ICCTA staff has prepared a memo to members of the House that explains the Fiscal Year 2009 budget request for community colleges (see attachment). In this memo, we urge the House to adopt the FY2009 budget that was recommended by the Illinois Board of Higher Education as "Step 5" in its February 2008 budget recommendations. In its "Step 5" funding option, IBHE described a 6.9% General Revenue Funds increase above the enacted FY2008 funding level for community colleges. This budget will impact community colleges in Fiscal Year 2009 as follows:

- Increases the community college annual budget to \$330.2 million, a 6.9% (or \$20 million) increase above the FY 2008 enacted appropriation level. If approved, this would be still \$17 million less than the enacted FY 2002 appropriation.
- Adds \$5.5 million to fund the Student Success grant. This grant provides tutoring and special services to students who have challenging educational needs.
- The funding level will slow the rate of increases in tuition. Tuition has increased at community colleges by over 60% in the past six years as State funding has been reduced.
- Funds Veterans Grants at \$7.3 million for community colleges. This is the amount needed to fund Veterans Grants at community colleges.

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

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I C C T A
ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION
401 E. Capitol Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62701 (217) 528-2858

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Illinois Community College Trustees Association and the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents

DATE: May 14, 2008

RE: Fiscal Year 2009 budget for community colleges

On April 30, the Coalition for Community College Funding appeared before the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee in order to share FY2009 funding needs. Testifying before the committee were Kathy Wessel, President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Terry Bruce, President of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, and Perry Buckley, President of the Cook County College Teachers Union. The purpose of this memo is to share that FY2009 funding request with members of the Illinois House of Representatives.

The witnesses urged the House to adopt the FY2009 budget that was recommended by the Illinois Board of Higher Education as "Step 5" in its February 2008 budget recommendations. In its "Step 5" funding option, IBHE described a 6.9% General Revenue Funds increase above the enacted FY2008 funding level for community colleges. This budget will impact community colleges in Fiscal Year 2009 as follows:

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Community colleges are a good investment for Illinois. Community colleges directly affect approximately one million people each year. Over 60% of all minority populations and over 65% of all veterans enrolling in higher education attend community colleges. Community colleges enroll 64% of the students in public higher education, yet only receive 14% of the state higher education dollars. Community colleges need your assistance to continue to serve Illinois.