

ICCB Press Release

Contact: Steve Morse, Illinois Community College Board
Phone: 217/785-7411

401 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701-1711

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring community college enrollment at another record high

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(Springfield)– The statewide Full Time Equivalency (FTE) Spring enrollments at Illinois community colleges reached a record 202,804 for the current semester, an increase of 4.2% from last year, according to recently released figures from the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). The previous record-high FTE enrollment was in Spring 2004.

The Spring 2009 headcount enrollments are at a near-record level, up 3.1% from Spring 2008, or more than 362,500 students for this spring compared to about 351,800 for the previous Spring semester.

Figures for FTE are the measure of total number of credit hours being taken by students divided by 15 – the number of semester hours considered as a full-time class load.

“I believe we are seeing demand from those in the workforce who need to enhance their skills, plus the accessibility and open admission policies make community colleges an attractive option,” said Geoffrey S. Obrzut, president and chief executive officer of the ICCB.

“The severe economic crisis and the loss of jobs drives people to our doors,” said Guy H. Alongi, chairman of the ICCB. “These figures emphasize the need to keep our community colleges well-equipped to handle the demands that the public expects of them.”

“Compared to last spring, there are more individuals enrolling at community colleges across the state and overall those students are taking heavier class loads,” said Dr. Scott Parke, Senior Director for Policy Studies at the ICCB.

The full report is available on the ICCB website, www.iccb.org.

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