

# Illinois Community College Board

## Work Session Agenda and Materials

September 21, 2012

Moraine Valley Community College  
Moraine Business and Conference Center  
Building M, Moraine Room 1  
9000 West College Parkway  
Palos Hills, IL



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**RACE TO THE TOP: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS STEM PROJECT  
UPDATE**

The ICCB is poised to receive nearly one million dollars in Race to the Top (RTTT) funds to implement the STEM College and Career Readiness project. Funded over three and a half years (3½), the money will support seven colleges in the development and implementation of academic remedial interventions in math for Junior and Senior level students in RTTT high school districts.

The project has three key goals:

- Diagnosing college readiness for students in Programs of Study by aligning placement assessments from secondary to postsecondary education.
- Reduction of remediation by utilizing targeted interventions in the high schools.
- Alignment of high school and college curriculum, student services, and evaluation—both self evaluation and external evaluation.

This project is set to begin implementation in October.

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### **ILLINOIS ARTICULATION INITIATIVE UPDATE**

The five general education and eighteen major panels met to review and approve courses for this past spring semester and will begin holding fall panel meetings this October. For the spring 2012 semester, 530 courses were submitted and reviewed by the panels: 385 courses were submitted under the Five Year Review process and 145 courses were submitted for New Course review and approval. In comparison, a total of 337 courses (236 Five Year and 101 New) were submitted for the same spring 2011 review period. The Major Panel Initiative has completed all three tiers with the public universities. Next steps for this process include bringing the senior private institutions into the tier review and agreement process, and working with the appropriate major panels and public senior institutions to address concerns that prevented institutions from complete agreements with panel recommendations. A communication and review process will also need to be established with senior universities to address any changes a panel may make to their core courses since the initial Major Directive Initiative.

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**TRANSCRIPT STUDY UPDATE**

Driven by recent concerns about the effectiveness of transfer (particularly the Illinois Articulation Initiative), between community colleges and universities in the state, the ICCB recently entered into an agreement with Southern Illinois University—Carbondale (SIU-C) to conduct a transcript study examining the effectiveness of transfer between SIU-C and its feeder community colleges. As a part of this, SIU-C agreed to produce data for their top 10 feeder community colleges in Illinois, including: John A Logan College; Rend Lake College; Southwestern Illinois College; Kaskaskia College; College of Lake County; Illinois Eastern Community College; Shawnee Community College; Southeastern Illinois College; College of DuPage; and Lake Land College. As a part of the study, transcripts are being shared between the feeders and SIU-C to determine what issues in transfer exist.

An initial transcript summit was held in June, shortly after execution of the agreement. Broader work began in early July and is slated for completion by December. Currently, ICCB staff and others involved in the study are visiting campuses and working to analyze transcripts. Each individual college will receive information about their students that were evaluated in the study. The final intent is to identify any transfer issues that may exist and to develop processes and procedures to correct those issues. Further studies are anticipated with other four year institutions using the model developed in this process. Any reports released will be done jointly between SIU-C and the ICCB.

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**VETERANS SERVICES UPDATE**

The Illinois Community College Board has been working with several military entities to work collaboratively on several projects at both state and regional levels. A survey has also been conducted with our Veterans Coordinators to identify the areas that they feel need the most training and assistance in to best serve our student service members and their families.

The Illinois National Guard is seeking information on growing workforce needs to assist in finding matches for their returning service members. ICCB is working with them to identify these areas and provide training at our community colleges for service members to receive the necessary training and credentials needed for employment.

The ICCB, Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education, u.select, several community colleges and four year universities have been discussing the possibility of a military articulation pilot program. This program would work through u.select and allow for more universal review of military transcripts to help ease transfer to student service members.

Representatives from Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and the Military Family Research Institute met and have been discussing a shared interest in making military credit transfer more transparent, efficient, and consistent. The goals of this group are to:

- Create a model of consistency, transparency, and efficiently awarding academic credit for military training and experience that can be scaled regionally and nationally.
- Establish a strong partnership with the American Council on Education (ACE) for the purpose of promoting our shared interests.
- Create a system for documenting and tracking academic progression at the state level.

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**OPEN MEETINGS ACT UPDATE**

Board members, who have not already, need to complete the online training for the Open Meetings Act by December 31, 2012. The training is mandatory for members of statewide boards and commissions. The training module can be found on the website of the Attorney General: <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/> Each Board member should register as “OMA Public Body Member.”

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The Open Meetings Act was amended via Public Act 97-0827. The amendment requires that the posted agenda set forth the general subject matter of any resolution or ordinance that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. After checking with the Attorney general’s office, we find this amendment to mean that the Board cannot take final action (vote) on subject matter not included on the agenda. Our agendas routinely include “Action” items on which the Board will vote. This new amendment would prohibit final action votes on items not so listed on the agenda. Such votes are rare for the ICCB but may occur when discussions on a non-action topic leads the Board to believe they need to take action. Such action must be part of a future agenda at which time a vote may be taken.

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**CHANGES IN GED TESTING**

On July 6, 2005, the GED Testing Program transferred from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Since this time, ICCB has provided guidance and oversight for 78 GED Testing Centers statewide.

From 2005-2008, the cost to take the GED was \$35.00. For the testing centers, the average testing cost was \$84 per test taker, which meant that Illinois GED Testing Centers were losing an average of \$49.00 per test taker. Approximately 26,000 individuals were tested annually, resulting in a statewide deficit of \$1.2 million. ICCB requested additional resources from the state legislature to offset the cost of administering the GED Test but did not receive any additional funds. In September, 2008, the Board approved a motion to increase the cost to take the GED to \$50.00.

Beginning January, 2014, all GED tests will be delivered by computer when GED Testing Service introduces a new assessment system. The computer-based testing system will improve the delivery and flexibility of the testing experience; however, it will also significantly increase the cost of both administering and taking the test. Each testing center will be required to be a Pearson VUE Authorized Test Center (PVTC), and it is estimated that the cost of the test could increase, at a minimum, to \$120.

The change from paper to computer-based testing and the increased cost of the test could significantly impact the number of test-takers in Illinois and the number of students enrolled in adult education.



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**FISCAL, PERSONNEL, ETHICS, AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST COMMITTEE**

An oral report will be given on discussions that took place during the committee meeting held on the morning of Friday, September 21, 2012. The discussion items have been outlined below:

- Financial Statements: Fiscal Year 2012 and Fiscal Year 2013
  - State General Funds
  - Special State Funds
  - Federal Funds
  - Bond Financed Funds
  
- Fiscal Year 2013 Office Budget
  - Travel Expenditures
  
- Timeliness of state payments to the colleges and adult education providers

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**DISCUSSION ON ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS/ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGES ONLINE (ILCCO)**

Online instruction has increased dramatically in almost all areas of education. In Illinois Community Colleges, online enrollments increased 36% percent between 2008 and 2011. Nearly one third of our completers have taken at least one online course.

There are several benefits of online instruction for students: flexibility of when and where students can “attend” class; an increase in the availability of diverse material; an enhanced knowledge of the technological skills that will be critical to workers in the 21st century; and the facilitation of team learning through chat rooms and newsgroups.

Online courses can be a convenient and cost effective way to earn college credits, certificates, and degrees. In addition, online courses can be a flexible way for a college to add additional courses or sections and to share courses with students outside of their districts.

In the fall of 2002, Illinois Community Colleges Online (ILCCO) was opened to all Illinois community colleges providing students access to online courses available at institutions throughout the state but with the emphasis of focusing their learning through their local college. ILCCO is a platform for colleges to work together to provide leadership, facilitate collaboration and share resources in online and technology-enhanced education. It remains committed to course sharing between colleges, creating access to instruction so students can achieve their educational goals.

The increased emphasis on technological literacy in education and in the workforce makes online course options in Illinois Community Colleges more significant. An examination of the role of ILCCO in the Illinois Community College System, the affordability and access to online courses, and the proliferation of online courses through for-profit educational institutions could provide insights into a strategic plan for online education in Illinois Community Colleges.