

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2017

Illinois Community College Board Announces Statewide Task Force on the Future of Adult Education and Literacy

SPRINGFIELD – In Illinois, more than 1.2 million adults do not have a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. At the same time, a more demanding economy means that 70% of all jobs in Illinois will require some form of education and training beyond high school. To confront these challenges, today the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) announced the formation of the Statewide Task Force on the Future of Adult Education and Literacy to develop a strategic plan to guide adult education and literacy services over the next five years.

The Task Force, authorized through Senate Joint Resolution 40, will focus on ensuring that adult learners have access to basic education and literacy activities, high quality career pathways and postsecondary education, and training programs in high demand occupations. “Adult education isn’t about getting students a high school equivalency certificate anymore. It’s about preparing them for training programs that can get them good jobs,” said Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the ICCB and chair of the Task Force.

The first meeting of the Statewide Task Force on the Future of Adult Education and Literacy will be held on **Monday, October 23 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Illinois State Library in Springfield, IL.** The meeting is open to members of the public who wish to attend.

Members of the Task Force include:

- Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, Illinois Community College Board (Chair)
- Arlene Anderson, Urbana District 116
- Emily Bastedo, Office of Governor Bruce Rauner
- Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant (D – 49th District)
- Eddie Brambila, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Sharon Bush, Grand Victoria Foundation
- Shayla Grantham, Illinois State Board of Education
- Representative Norrine Hammond (R – 93rd District)
- Peggy Heinrich, Elgin Community College
- Lisa Jones, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Mark Jontry, Illinois Association Regional Superintendents Schools

- Nick Kachiroubas, Illinois Community College Board
- Joanne Kantner, Kishwaukee College
- LaTanya Law-Fountain, Illinois Department of Human Services
- Jeff Mays, Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Tawanna Nickens, Illinois Adult and Continuing Educator's Association
- Beth Paoli, Illinois State Library Secretary of State
- Stephen Richard Alderson, Instituto Del Progreso Latino
- Representative Thaddeus Jones (D – 29th District)
- Senator Chuck Weaver (R – 37th District)
- Dr. Terri Winfree, Prairie State College
- Amanda Winters, Illinois Board of Higher Education

The Task Force will submit its strategic plan to the Governor and General Assembly by January 31, 2018. Those wanting more information may contact Jennifer Foster, Deputy Director for Adult Education and Workforce at (217) 785-0171 or Jennifer.Foster@illinois.gov.

The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges. Illinois is home to 48 community colleges in 39 districts and has the third largest community college system in the nation serving nearly 850,000 residents each year in credit and non-credit courses.

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