



Illinois Community College Trustees Association Action Alert **May 2, 2005**

LOBBY DAY ISSUES

Below are Fact Sheets for the 2 issues that the Trustees Association will be advocating during our May 4 Lobby Day in Springfield. If you will not be able to participate in Lobby Day in person, please call or e-mail your state lawmakers on May 4 in support of these issues:

- * FY06 funding for Illinois community colleges
- * Senate Bill 2112 (community college trustee on ICCB)

Michael S. Monaghan
Executive Director
Illinois Community College Trustees Association
401 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701-1711
1-800-454-2282 (office)
217-528-8662 (fax)
iccta@communitycolleges.org

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2006

The Governor has recommended Fiscal Year 2006 state funding for the community college system at the same level as was funded in FY05. **This level of state support continues to be the lowest level of funding since FY97 for most colleges.**

The Governor's budget for community colleges holds most budgeted categories at FY05 funding levels. No funding is included to implement the Illinois Community College Board's Funding Task Force recommendations for an equalization funding formula revision.

This budget represents an amount that is approximately 15% below the actual levels appropriated for most community colleges in FY02. In 2002, the average full-time community college student paid about \$50 a credit hour for tuition and fees, or about \$1,500 per year. **In FY06, tuition is estimated to increase to approximately \$70 a credit hour – a 40% increase – for a \$2,100 annual cost.** Most tuition increases are intended to offset the four-year decline in state funding for community colleges.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES DO MORE FOR LESS

Community colleges enroll 60% of all Illinois undergraduate students. Enrollment has continued to climb in the community colleges, yet the colleges will receive \$33 million less from the state in FY06 under the Governor's budget than in FY02.

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is recommending an FY06 budget for community colleges that funds a 2.9% increase above FY05 funding levels. If the BHE recommendations are funded, this would represent the first time in the past four years that state funding will increase. The BHE

funding plan includes funding for the equalization funding formula revisions recommended by the ICCB Funding Task Force. The BHE funding plan does not fund Workforce Development Grants or grants for disadvantaged students as the Governor's plan does.

**SENATE BILL 2112
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEE TO SERVE ON THE ICCB**

Sponsors: Senator Deanna Demuzio
Representative Kevin McCarthy

SENATE BILL 2112 requires that a seated community college trustee be appointed to serve as a member of the Illinois Community College Board. The bill originally required that a community college faculty member be appointed to the ICCB and was amended at the request of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association to add a trustee to the Illinois Community College Board.

The appointments to the Illinois Community College Board are for terms of six years. However, under the provisions of SB 2112, the community college trustee may serve on the Illinois Community College Board only as long as he/she remains a local board member.

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association supports Senate Bill 2112. ICCTA believes that elected local board members can bring an important local perspective to the state board. Additionally, the local board member presence can assist state board members in the areas of policy making that affects the 39 community college district boards.

#####