

Illinois Community College Board



Guy H. Alongi
Chairman

Geoffrey S. Obrzut
President/CEO

proudly serving the

Illinois Community College System

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents
Chief Academic Officers, Career Deans, Adult Education Program Directors,
Workforce Development Directors, and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Dr. Elaine S. Johnson, V.P. of Academic Affairs & Workforce Development
Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, V.P. of Adult Education and Institutional Support

DATE: May 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Statewide Bridge Definition

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is pleased to officially release the approved statewide *Bridge Definition*. As a part of the Joyce Foundation Shifting Gears Initiative, the ICCB has worked with several partners to develop a definition that could be used statewide and by a variety of institutions. This definition has been reviewed by different audiences including the Illinois Community College Presidents Council and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Advisory Council.

The Academic Affairs and Career & Technical Education, Adult Education, and Workforce Divisions of the ICCB have been an integral part of the Shifting Gears initiative and are pleased to provide this information regarding the availability of this new type of course classification known as “Bridge Instruction.” The concept of “bridge instruction” was established to target the academically under-prepared students enrolled in both remedial coursework as well as those in ICCB adult education programs (ABE, ASE and ESL). The design of this instruction will allow students to gain skills and knowledge in a contextualized learning experience that will prepare them to move along a career pathway into college-level education and ultimately into employment in high demand, skilled occupations.

ICCB is working diligently to put in place a framework that will help your institutions in the development and implementation of this innovative approach to instruction. This plan includes:

- development of statewide Bridge Instruction models aligned with Illinois Career Clusters;
- new Generic Course Codes and approval processes specifically for Bridge Instruction;
- revisions to the Program Manuals and related forms;
- marketing to encourage participation in offering Bridges; and
- technical assistance on implementing and developing Bridge Courses.

We are excited about this innovative approach to learning that you will be able to offer the students within your institutions. For your information, we have attached the statewide *Bridge Definition* so that you can begin to explore this specific type of instruction within your institutions. Over the next few months and throughout the next year, the ICCB staff will provide you with updates that will assist you in the development of these programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the person in your related area:

- Jennifer Foster, Senior Director for Adult Education and Family Literacy - jennifer.foster@illinois.gov.
- Lavon Nelson, Director for Workforce Systems – lavon.nelson@illinois.gov.
- Tricia Broughton, Associate Director for Career and Technical Programs - tricia.broughton@illinois.gov