

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DISCUSSION June 15, 2009

Presenter: Brian Durham

The Illinois Community College Board seeks to administer the Public Community College Act in a manner that maximizes the ability of the community colleges to serve their communities, to promote cooperation in the community college system, and to accommodate those Illinois initiatives that are appropriate for community colleges. In carrying out its mission, the Illinois Community College Board affirms its commitment to the “educational development of all persons to the limit of their capacities” as established in the Illinois Constitution.

The 39 districts and 48 community colleges are “open access” institutions that welcome individuals from all backgrounds and circumstances. Each college offers credit bearing transfer programs, career and technical education programs, developmental education programs, adult education programs and workforce or business & industry programs that may be appropriate for ex-offenders to access. Transfer programs, include such courses as English Composition, which is an Illinois Articulation Initiative coded course, and thus accepted for transfer at four year institutions around the state. Career and Technical education programs might include something such as horticulture or automotive programs. Adult education courses offered throughout the system include courses such as adult basic education, adult secondary education, and English as a second language. Workforce and Business & Industry programs include programs such as customer service training or OSHA certification. These are tailored for businesses.

Postsecondary Perkins funds continue to be allotted for Department of Corrections (Office of Adult and Vocational Services- OAVES) in order continue programs that enable the department to better prepare offenders as they enter the world of work post-release. Currently, the Department of Corrections contracts with nine community colleges to provide postsecondary career and technical education training opportunities at the certificate and associate degree level. These nine colleges cover the entire correctional system.

The school district enrolled 5,166 students in college credit hour programs with 1,982 completing the programs and earning certificates, with 69,302 credit hours generated as a result. Approximately 26,000 offenders participated in OAEVS educational programs in FY07 alone. In addition over 1,548 offenders obtained their GED. (A list of programs offered is attached.)

A significant component of the career and technical education training for inmates is conducted through Life Skills Centers. These centers are designed to provide job training, job referrals, education, clothing, food, medical, identification, medical assistance, survival kits, transportation, case management, counseling, and more. Life Skills Centers are placed within key geographical areas of the state and provide these transitional services to students/offenders who are paroling into society. The Life Skills Centers currently serve ex-offenders in 36 counties throughout the state. Similar to the Life Skills programs, the community colleges offer a Job Preparation program in partnership with the SAFER foundation, throughout the correctional system.

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DISCUSSION June 15, 2009

Presenter: Brian Durham

Career and Technical Education funding comes via the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Illinois State Board of Education. State funds are also allotted to Career and Technical Education. Adult Education funds are also federal with a similar amount coming from the state. Both CTE and Adult Education have dedicated funds that go to the correctional system.

Colleges offering programs:

- Kaskaskia College
- Danville Area Community College
- Illinois Valley Community College
- Illinois Central College
- Lake Land College
- Carl Sandburg College
- Rend Lake College
- Lincoln Land Community College
- Lincoln Trail College
- Southeastern Illinois College
- Spoon River College
- Richland Community College

Programs offered within the Institutions:

- AUTO BODY REPAIR
- BASIC AUTO CERTIFICATE I
- BASIC AUTO CERTIFICATE II
- BEGINNING WELDING
- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY
- COMMERCIAL CUSTODIAL SERVICES
- COMMERCIAL CUSTODIAL TRAINING
- COMPUTER A+ CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
- COMPUTER TECHNICIAN II
- COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY BASIC CERTIFICATE
- COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY ADVANCED CERT
- CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS
- CUSTODIAL MAINTENANCE

ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DISCUSSION June 15, 2009

Presenter: Brian Durham

- ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY
- FOOD SERVICE
- HEAT VENTILATION & AIR CONDITIONING
- HORTICULTURE
- HVACR TECHNOLOGY
- SMALL ENGINE REPAIR