Service to the State

2011

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN • CHICAGO • SPRINGFIELD
# 2011 Service to the State of Illinois

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The University of Illinois, founded as the state’s land-grant institution in 1867, is among the best and most comprehensive public research universities in the U.S. With its three distinctive campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield, the University of Illinois is a very large and complex institution serving over 70,000 enrolled students and over a million Illinois residents each year. Through its myriad outreach and engagement initiatives, the University transcends the traditional classroom and laboratory to extend its impact throughout the state of Illinois, the nation and the world. These activities enable the University to meet its mission to transform lives and serve society by creating knowledge, educating, and putting knowledge to work on a large scale, with excellence.

The University of Illinois colleges, departments, continuing education units, extension offices, medical centers and health clinics, faculty, and staff are all involved in credit and noncredit programming, collaboration and partnerships, and direct services to an array of citizens, organizations and communities in the state of Illinois and beyond. Working together, the University of Illinois serves the people of Illinois through a shared commitment to excellence in teaching, research, public service, and innovation.

The University of Illinois’ impact on the state of Illinois extends far beyond our campuses in significant, synergistic, and meaningful ways. Outreach and public service activities help create healthier, more livable communities and strengthen the ties between the University of Illinois and the state of Illinois.

This “2011 Service to the State of Illinois” report tells only a part of the story of the University of Illinois outreach and engagement with the state of Illinois. It provides a snapshot of the breadth and depth of the University’s services, educational programming, regional education and medical centers, and engagement initiatives woven into the fabric of our communities across the state. The first several sections include highlights of the accomplishments of the 2010 academic year from each campus and from the University’s Institute of Government and Public Affairs. The next section covers similar highlights of the accomplishments of University Outreach and Public Service and its several affiliate units, as well as P-20 Education Initiatives.
University of Illinois Extension

The Goal

Through educational programs University of Illinois Extension helps Illinois residents obtain knowledge—making life better, healthier, safer, and more prosperous for individuals and their communities.

Program Reach and Delivery Methods

In 2009-2010, Extension programs involved nearly 2.7 million face-to-face teaching contacts with residents of all of Illinois’ 102 counties – and far beyond. Program delivery methods included hands-on workshops, field days, self-paced tutorials, expanded audio- and video-conferencing, and podcasts.

In addition, total page views on Extension’s websites continued to increase, numbering over 73 million. More than 350 unique websites, including 70 in Spanish and 4 in other languages, are available to the public on a wide variety of topics. Examples of new websites added in 2009-2010 include Getting Through Tough Financial Times, Responsible Pest Management for Retailers, and Small Fruit Crops.

Educational outreach through the media included distribution of more than 10,000 news releases, as well as broadcasts of more than 1,100 radio programs and 500-plus television programs. Distribution of newsletters on a variety of topics totaled nearly 1.3 million print copies with countless more online.

Program Focus

In response to locally-identified needs, Extension draws on university-based research and partners with organizations, businesses, and other groups to develop and deliver programs. A sample of Extension programs conducted in 2009-2010 illustrating the broad areas of focus, the diversity of audiences, and the variety of delivery methods are described below:

Food Safety and Security

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program engaged some 500,000 youth in activities that addressed healthy food choices, cooking skills, and physical activity targeted at preventing childhood obesity.

- Cook County’s Urban Extension Horticulture Program continued developing community gardens. During the past three years, more than 150 community gardens have each yielded between 500 and 1,000 pounds of fresh, nutritious food—often in areas with limited access.

- Through Food Safety Refresher Courses, 348 individuals were recertified to serve food to the public and 60% indicated they changed practices in monitoring safe food temperatures.
To meet growing demands for food, more than 1,100 agricultural producers and consultants annually attend Corn and Soybean Classics to enhance their knowledge of the latest research on production strategies for an estimated 18.4 million acres of corn and soybeans.

**Family Health, Financial Security and Wellness**

- **Saving and Investing in Turbulent Times** programs engaged over 100 participants through audio conferencing with more than 70% indicating that their knowledge about specific investment-related topics had increased.

- Partners in Parenting newsletter recipients (172) indicated that the newsletters helped them gain ideas and confidence in appropriate ways to guide learning and development of infants.

- Cook County Extension’s Male Forum offers seminars highlighting a number of important male health topics—93% of survey respondents indicated that they now include exercise in their daily routine and changed their eating habits as a result of their involvement in the forum.

**Economic Development and Workforce Preparedness**

- Certified County Officials distance education classes provided 415 board members, commissioners, assessors, clerks, and other officials with information they reported using to make decisions that benefited their local constituencies.

- An “Extension-housed” learning center trained more than 275 employees of 9 west-central Illinois companies in technology, health and safety, management skills, and use of heavy equipment.

- Illinois ResourceNet education efforts assisted local officials and organizations to procure more than $3 million in federal grant funds to support various community projects.

- 1,000 citizens participated in Extension-facilitated processes designed to create county disaster mitigation plans. These are required to secure funds to address future serious disasters such as floods.

**Energy and the Environment**

- Of the 460 landowners who attended Wind Energy 101 workshops, 92% indicated they found the information to be very useful in considering whether to pursue wind farm development.

- More than 150 individuals were certified statewide in detecting the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer which threatens 13 million trees valued at $9.1 million.

- 1,400+ Surveys collected at Pesticide Safety Education training sessions revealed that agriculture producers are following environmentally friendly practices to minimize the use of pesticides.

**Youth Development**

University of Illinois Extension’s 4-H Youth Development program assists youth in acquiring knowledge and developing life skills that will enable them to become caring, competent, and contributing members of society. In 2009-2010, nearly 268,000 youth participated in 4-H activities and programs. Some 23,000 Illinois youth and adult volunteer leaders worked with these youth. Responding to the need for developing curiosity, abilities, and deeper understanding in science,
by time, place, and obligation. The unit fulfills its mission with the following offerings:

**Division of Academic Outreach**

Academic offerings available through the Office of Continuing Education are administered by OCE's Division of Academic Outreach. These offerings enable participants to fulfill state and professional certification requirements, expand knowledge, enhance skills, and improve performance.

Individuals served include adult, part-time students in various fields (teacher education, administration, human resources, engineering, library science, media training, social work, crop sciences, animal sciences, food science and human nutrition, urban and rural horticulture/design, natural resources and environmental sciences, and recreation, sport, and tourism), along with high school and traditional college students.

During AY 2010, OCE administered:
- 26 off-campus/online post-baccalaureate degree programs
- One site-based baccalaureate completion program
- 18 course sequences, some of which are offered as certificate programs

The majority of post-baccalaureate degree programs and all the certificate programs are offered online. A number of the online programs have received national awards for excellence, including the Graduate School of Library and Information Science LEEP program, and College of Education's Curriculum,
Summary of online, site-based and print-based credit courses through OCE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Level</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>7,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1,193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technology, and Education Reform and Global Human Resource Education programs.

OCE also administers a wide variety of courses for various campus units. These online, self-paced, continuous enrollment courses have enabled undergraduates at all three residential U of I campuses (Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, and Springfield) and elsewhere in the state to fulfill general education requirements and facilitate completion of degree programs. Online math courses for high school and college students (NetMath) are available through the Department of Mathematics and include an extensive mentoring dimension.

In Summer 2010, the campus also offered a suite of 35 online, primarily undergraduate “stand-alone” courses through OCE that generated over 1,000 undergraduate enrollments.

As access to educational technologies has increased, the demand for print-based courses by mail has declined. However, through the increased use of educational technologies for instructional delivery, the campus has continued to meet the demand for distantly delivered courses. This has allowed OCE to expand its offerings with programs in Chicago, China, Singapore, and Poland.

As of January 2010, OCE assumed administration of two master’s programs formerly offered in partnership with Global Campus: M.S. in Recreation, Sport, and Tourism, and Ed.M. in Human Resource Education with a specialization in eLearning. An undergraduate certificate in Environmental Sustainability, launched in Fall 2010, is now also administered by OCE.

Conferences and Institutes

OCE also delivers cutting-edge research and information to such diverse constituencies as municipal leaders, farmers, engineers, scientists, teachers and academics, within Illinois and across the nation and world through its Conferences and Institutes Division.

In 2009-2010, the unit offered some 48 programs benefiting more than 14,450 participants. In a tradition of mounting thoughtfully organized and meticulously executed events, OCE offered a broad array of conferences, institutes, workshops, classes, and programs including:

- Scholarly meetings for academic groups
- Continuing professional education for professional, government and industry groups
- Scientific and technical conferences for academic societies
- Technology training for college and university faculty

The unit also enjoys ongoing programming alliances with professional societies such as the Winter Conference on Brain Research, the Society for Research and Biological Rhythms, and statewide groups.

Lifelong Learning Programs

OCE is also the home of the University’s Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) program which offers learning-in-retirement and lifelong learning opportunities to older adults. During FY 2010, Road Scholar programs attracted more than 150 lifelong learners from 16 states and Canada. The programs featured lectures from a total of 14 University faculty, staff and researchers.

For more information, visit http://www.continuinged.illinois.edu
University of Illinois at Chicago

The University of Illinois at Chicago provides broad access to the highest levels of academic excellence. With its wide representation of academic and professional disciplines, especially in healthcare, physical and biological sciences and engineering, UIC offers a range of educational opportunities to a highly diverse group of students.

UIC has a significant history of engagement with the City of Chicago through its Great Cities Commitment and other activities. In addition, UIC’s burgeoning research activities extend the University’s ability to reach the lives of people beyond the immediate vicinity of Chicago.

The programs and initiatives listed below, although not a comprehensive account of this activity, illustrate the varied and important ways in which UIC is having an impact on healthcare delivery in Illinois and solving other intractable problems that challenge the state.

Office of TeleHealth

In critical care situations when on-site specialized care is not readily available, transferring patients from one facility to another wastes precious time and jeopardizes patient outcomes. The UIC TeleHealth Network addresses these limitations by instantly delivering top University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center specialists–anytime, anywhere.

TeleHealth, or Telemedicine as it is also known, is the use of existing electronic communications and medical device technology to deliver sub-specialty critical care evaluation and treatment at a distance. If needed expertise or resources are not readily available locally, patients can be treated efficiently, effectively, and without patient transfers by using state-of-the-art wireless, internet and robotics technology. Physicians from the UIC Medical Center can be remotely present at the patient’s bedside, conversing, interacting and consulting with them, giving the sense that a specialist is in the room. Remote and underserved area hospitals can treat more patients with fewer transfers.

By adding the UIC TeleHealth Network’s vast expertise to existing resources, hospitals can instantly increase the effectiveness of their staff, the richness of care available, and ultimately, the number of patients they can treat effectively.

For more information, visit http://medicine.uic.edu/telehealth

New College of Pharmacy Rockford Campus and Rural Pharmacy Education Program

In fall 2010, the UIC College of Pharmacy opened its first regional campus in Rockford. Housed next to the existing UIC College of Medicine at Rockford building, the new Rockford Pharmacy building is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to serve an even greater number of students in the region. The Rural Pharmacy Education Program offers a unique educational opportunity for students interested in rural pharmacy practice.
broader constituency of future health care professionals and researchers dedicated to serving the state of Illinois.

In addition to providing an influx of employment opportunities and economic development for the Rockford area, and bringing federal research dollars into the state, the Rockford campus offers a unique program designed to specifically prepare future pharmacists for practice within the rural areas that comprise the majority of Illinois.

The Rural Pharmacy Education Program recruits students from rural, medically underserved regions of the state and educates them in aspects of rural health and pharmacy. RPharm students train inter-professionally with medical students during their four years at Rockford in order to develop collaborative practices applicable in these rural areas. This program has the potential to develop a unique collaborative practice model that can significantly improve healthcare delivery in rural communities throughout Illinois.

The creation of a regional campus of the UIC College of Pharmacy outside of Chicago allows more opportunities for Illinois students to become pharmacists via public education in the state and helps the University more broadly serve the citizen's pharmacy care needs.

For more information, visit http://uic.edu/pharmacy/rockford/index.php

Urban Education Leadership Program

The Urban Education Leadership Program is an innovative Ed.D program designed to develop principals and administrative educational leaders capable of transforming low-performing urban schools, systems, and entire districts.

This intensive, highly-selective cohort model of instruction combines coursework with supervised practicum experience. Students in the Urban Education Leadership program receive at least three years of site-based coaching by former principals who have transformed urban schools, and three years of field assessment aimed at producing candidates with proven ability as school change agents. Graduates of this program are among the most highly sought after administrators by local school councils in the Chicago Public Schools. Of candidates who finish the academic-year residency in good standing, 96% have obtained administrative positions—most of them as principals—in Chicago schools.

Schools led by graduates of the Urban Education Leadership Program are outperforming comparable CPS schools in measures of student performance and school climate and culture. Currently there are principals from the Urban Education Leadership Program leading transformation efforts in 47 urban schools (45 in Chicago) with a combined student enrollment of nearly 23,000 students.

For more information, visit http://education.uic.edu/uel-edd/

Autism Center of Excellence

The Institute for Juvenile Research is the academic home of world renowned researchers in the area of autism. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development recently launched the Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE), a federally funded effort to develop multidisciplinary research on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). UIC is one of five ACE sites and is undertaking a large-scale investigation of the genetic, neurobiological, and cognitive features of individuals with ASD.

The goal of the Center is to approach this vexing clinical problem from genetic, cognitive neuroscience and pharmacological approaches, across species, in an unusually integrated way. The Center’s focus on repetitive behavior will allow testing and development of new individualized treatments and improvement of available drug treatments to best complement behavioral interventions.
Three collaborative projects within the UIC Autism Center of Excellence will investigate the genetics of serotonin in autism, identify patients who best respond to SSRI treatment based on genetic markers, and use brain imaging and neurobehavioral studies to determine the effects of SSRI drugs before and after treatment.

To learn more, visit [http://ccm.psych.uic.edu/Research/ResearchProgram/Autism/ACE.aspx](http://ccm.psych.uic.edu/Research/ResearchProgram/Autism/ACE.aspx)

**Green Infrastructure**

As part of the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act, a research team led by the UIC College of Urban Planning and Policy is working with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to assess and evaluate the use of green infrastructure to help manage storm water in Illinois.

Green infrastructure uses natural systems to reduce pollutants in urban storm water and to reduce the flow of storm water into lakes and streams. Green Infrastructure can be 25% less costly than conventional storm water management over its life cycle, as well as being more adaptable to changing conditions.

The research teams’ findings will be reported to the Illinois General Assembly with recommendations for the state regarding adoption of comprehensive storm water management rules. These will include establishment of statewide standards for storm water management programs; rules for distributing the money from the Water Revolving Fund; and new criteria prioritizing the use of green infrastructure in all projects involving storm water management and water efficiency.

To learn more, visit [http://tinyurl.com/greeninfrastructure](http://tinyurl.com/greeninfrastructure)

**Illinois Small Business Development Center**

Part of the UIC Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies within the College of Business Administration, the Illinois Small Business Development Center assists Illinois small businesses in moving to the next level of growth by providing in-depth, ongoing support, workshops and one-on-one counseling.

The Illinois SBDC at UIC assists pre-venture, start-ups, and established businesses with management, financial counseling, marketing plan preparation, securing capital, improving business skills, and accessing international trade opportunities. The development and growth of small businesses is critical to the Illinois economy. The Illinois SBDC at UIC is part of the Illinois Entrepreneurship Network, whose clients open and expand a business every 16 hours.

For more information, visit [http://uic.edu/cba/cub/index.html](http://uic.edu/cba/cub/index.html)

**Dentistry Community-Based and Service Learning Curriculum and Experience**

One of only two dental schools in the state, the UIC College of Dentistry prepares an oral health care workforce that is committed to addressing the oral health needs of vulnerable and underserved populations and eliminating health disparities. The College has developed innovative approaches to educate students about disease prevention and access to care issues while also providing oral health care to underserved populations.

Service learning is an approach integrated throughout the entire dentistry curriculum. However, the community based experiences in which students engage in the fourth year are particularly significant and provide tangible benefits to many communities by making dental care available within community sites.

Students learn from the instruction of adjunct faculty as on-site preceptors and get direct exposure to significant public health issues affecting the communities being served. Community sites are selected based on the
cultural and clinical experience the site has to offer to the students. The sites are diverse in their location, their setting, the population they serve, and the ethnicity of the patients seen.

In the community-based clinical experiences, the students provide care to the underserved urban, rural, and special needs populations including developmentally disabled, HIV positive patients, children and geriatric patients.

There are currently 17 sites in four Illinois counties – Cook, Lake, Whiteside and Winnebago – that partner with the College in this endeavor. Collectively they offer a wide variety of experiences for the students.

Four of the seventeen partner sites serve children exclusively. In Rockford, students provide care for patients with severe developmental disabilities at the Milestone Dental Clinic. These patients, many of whom are children, come from hundreds of miles away to receive treatment because of the lack of dentists who will treat them.

Last academic year, on average, each fourth year dental student was engaged in providing care at a partner site for 57 days. These students experienced over 10,354 total patient visits and performed over 19,138 clinical procedures while providing care in these unique locations.

For more information, visit http://dentistry.uic.edu/depts/pubHealth/service.fm?m=3&o=3#

UIC School of Continuing Studies

The UIC School of Continuing Studies supports a broad spectrum of programming for adults and professional audiences who are seeking professional development, personal enrichment, career transition and academic growth. These include credit and noncredit courses and workshops, certificates and degree programs, and intensive and customized ESL instruction in online, face-to-face and blended formats.

Credit Courses for Professional Development

Credit courses offered through the SCS and taught in a traditional classroom setting, mostly on the UIC campus, serve a wide array of primarily graduate-level audiences, who are pursuing specific professional development goals. Teachers in general and Chicago Public Schools teachers in particular, are a primary audience.

In FY 2010, there were 955 enrollments in 122 credit course sections. The programs highlight some of the partnerships and grant programs that enable school districts and other state agencies to meet Illinois professional certification requirement standards and participate in employee training initiatives.
Early Childhood Alternative Certification Program

The College of Education offers six credit courses leading to alternative certification in early childhood education for eligible child care staff in community agencies that are part of the Chicago Public Schools Community Partnership Program.

This program, which has begun its fifth cohort at UIC, is funded through the Illinois State Board of Education’s Preschool for All program to provide assistance for child care staff in these agencies to obtain the required state credentials for early childhood instructors.

West and South Cook Math Initiatives

As part of a Chicago Community Trust grant awarded to the Learning Sciences Research Institute, the Department of Math, Statistics and Computer Science works with the West 40 Intermediate Service Center and the South Cook Intermediate Center to offer mathematics teaching coursework to teachers from participating southern and western Cook County suburban school districts.

The teachers will be able to use courses towards fulfilling the requirements for a middle grades mathematics endorsement, expanding content knowledge or completing a Master of Science in Teaching degree.

UIC Online

Since 1996, UIC has offered online programs and courses to students throughout the state. As reported in the 2010 Winter/Spring Distance Education Enrollments at Illinois Colleges and Universities published by the Illinois Virtual Campus, UIC is once again the second leading provider of online enrollments among all public universities.

During the 2009-10 academic year, UIC offered seven online degree programs (five graduate and two undergraduate degree completion), 22 online certificate programs, 171 graduate online courses, and 44 undergraduate online courses. These programs served 5,676 students and generated a total of 9,418 enrollments. In Fall 2009, over 89% of students in UIC’s online credit courses were Illinois residents.

For more information, visit http://exedweb.cc.uic.edu/uiconline/index.asp
Noncredit Professional Development

During AY 2009/2010, the School of Continuing Studies (SCS) generated 1,036 enrollments in noncredit professional development offerings such as Grant Writing for Nonprofits, Technical Writing, Business Writing, Project Management, and the Certificate in Non-Profit Management. Additional programs that provide a strategic approach to cope with limited resources and prepare employees for continued growth in a globalized market include:

Subsistence Marketplaces Conference

The Subsistence Marketplaces Conference focuses on the integration of impactful research with commercial and social innovations for subsistence marketplaces that are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable.

Subsistence marketplaces consist of consumers and entrepreneurs who live at or near subsistence levels. The radically different context of subsistence and the emphasis on sustainable solutions provides a very challenging setting for research, education, and practice in management.

The conference goal is to create a synergy among these three and to engage students, businesses, social enterprises, and faculty from across various disciplines from a variety of institutions throughout the state, country and globe.

e-Government Workshop

The UIC e-Government Workshop brings together academics, government administrators and elected officials to hear and share effective practices in technology solutions for an accessible government. Sessions focusing on meeting efficiency, accountability, engagement and citizen communication goals offer participants the opportunity to learn of latest trends and effective applications and to network with others in public service and information technology from around the state and the nation.

Additionally, presentations include pragmatic strategies for using e-government technologies to provide a more robust interaction between citizens and policy makers during policy deliberations. This workshop, offered by UIC’s Department of Public Administration, pulls knowledge and expertise from the college’s online e-Government Certificate program.

Summer Session

UIC’s Summer Session provides opportunities for students to progress toward graduation by offering a wide array of undergraduate and graduate courses in four and eight week session lengths. In addition to serving 8,900 UIC students, the Summer Session enrolls approximately 800 visiting undergraduate students. The majority of these visiting students are Illinois residents who attend other colleges or universities and who take UIC summer courses in order to continue making steady progress toward graduation.
The University of Illinois Springfield is proud to serve the citizens of Illinois through community partnerships, public service activities, citizen education, professional development, lifelong learning, and online education. With its location in the state capital, UIS emphasizes public affairs, citizen engagement, and societal change. Three primary strategic goals – academic excellence, enriching individual lives, and making a difference in the world – reflect the university’s dedication to improving the lives of citizens through education.

**Center for State Policy and Leadership**

The Center plays a fundamental role in advancing UIS’ interest in public affairs. It develops new knowledge through research and evaluation to inform public decisions. It also fosters a better informed and more engaged citizenry, and strengthens public service through leadership development.

To carry out this agenda, the Center mobilizes the expertise of faculty, staff, and students to work in partnership with government, local communities, citizens, the nonprofit sector, and other universities. Some of the Center’s services to the state are:

**The Nonprofit Project**

The Nonprofit Project, located in the Department of Public Administration in the College of Public Affairs and Administration, is a diverse and networked community of public affairs students, practitioners, and scholars interested in nonprofit management.

It utilizes expertise of public administration faculty and students to develop, share, and apply knowledge and to build the capacity of the nonprofit community, much of which, in Springfield, is connected to local or state government in some way.

Faculty associated with the Nonprofit Project consult on nonprofit responses to disasters, on the state budget crisis, on nonprofit leadership development and in many other areas. Along with graduate education for nonprofit leaders, the project provides training workshops in a variety of critical areas for nonprofit development.
Research and Evaluation

The Center’s Institute for Legal, Legislative, and Policy Studies conducts program evaluations and research studies for state government agencies. It recently completed a project for the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority that evaluated a program operated by the Illinois Division of Mental Health to help jail inmates access the mental health services they need after their release.

Currently, Center faculty and staff are working with colleagues at UIUC to analyze the development of the state’s retail sector (the source of approximately one million of Illinois’ 6.8 million jobs) for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Certified Public Manager Program

The Institute administers the Certified Public Manager Program of Illinois, both online and in class, for individuals and organizations to enhance their management knowledge and skills.

Training for Practitioners

The Institute presents seminars on the Illinois legislative and budget processes for advocates, lobbyists, executives, board members, interest groups, and citizens interested in knowing more about how government works.

In addition, for many years Institute faculty and staff have worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve the capacity of law enforcement personnel in the state to mitigate the risks of drunk driving.

Sunshine Project

The Sunshine Project promotes public awareness of the role of money in Illinois politics. Through research and outreach, the project produces searchable campaign finance databases and reports that are frequently cited in news stories in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Crain’s Chicago Business, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Springfield State Journal-Register. The project works closely with the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform and its director in Chicago.

Survey Research

The Survey Research Office provides a full range of survey services and specializes in meeting the survey needs of state and local government and nonprofit agencies. For example, the office conducts an annual Motorist Public Opinion Survey to help inform the Illinois Department of Transportation’s strategic planning and decision making.

Recently, the office worked with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale on a survey of public attitudes about state revenue and spending.

WUIS 91.9 FM Public Radio

WUIS is a listener-supported public radio station that has served central Illinois for more than 30 years. Western Illinois is served through repeater station WIPA 89.3. WUIS/ WIPA offers access to highly regarded national and state news and information programs, such as Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Marketplace, and State Week in Review.

WUIS’ Statehouse News Bureau provides extensive coverage of state government news, and its state news stories are picked up by public radio stations throughout Illinois, especially through the WUIS-hosted Illinois Public Radio Network.

Illinois Issues Magazine

The magazine is the state’s leading publication on Illinois government and politics. Published 11 times a year, Illinois Issues has developed a reputation for provocative, well-informed, nonpartisan reporting and analysis of public affairs issues. The magazine’s online version provides readers with news blogs, links to daily newspapers, access to past issues of the magazine, and other public policy resources.
Governmental Internships

The Center administers two prestigious internship programs. The Illinois Legislative Staff Internship Program is among the premier graduate-level programs of its kind in the nation, placing interns each year on all four legislative leadership staffs in the General Assembly and with the legislature’s nonpartisan Legislative Research Unit.

The Graduate Public Service Internship Program places 130 to 170 graduate students every year in internships with state agencies. Over the years, many of the interns from both programs have gone on to leadership and managerial positions in the public sector.

Electronic Media

The Center’s Office of Electronic Media produces public service, educational, informational and public affairs programs on DVD, CD, video, audiotape and the Internet. For example, the office currently videotapes and webcasts, with live captioning, meetings of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission.

Papers of Abraham Lincoln

The Center co-sponsors and administers the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, helping to preserve and inform the legacy of Illinois’ greatest political figure. The Papers is a long-term documentary editing project dedicated to identifying, imaging, transcribing, and publishing all documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his lifetime.

Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center

The Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center provides the students, faculty, and staff of UIS with quality service and civic engagement opportunities that further the social good of central Illinois.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the UIS community volunteered more than 15,000 hours in both ongoing service and episodic service, assisting more than 40 local organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, American Lung Association, MERCY Communities, and the Springfield Park District.

The Volunteer Center also leads the UIS Holiday Stars project, which has collected over five tons of food for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

In 2010-11, the Center is partnering with the Illinois Humanities Council to lead a series of civic reflection dialogues among the AmeriCorps Midwest Campus Compact Citizen Scholar cohort.

UIS Peoria Center

UIS has been serving the educational needs of transfer students in the Peoria area for more than 30 years. Located for many years at Illinois Central College, the UIS Peoria Center is now in downtown Peoria. A variety of program and elective courses are offered in areas such as accountancy, business administration, and management.
The UIS Peoria Center also delivers a weekend-only MBA program, which responds to the needs of the region’s corporate community by providing continuing education to many of their employees.

**Applied Study Term (AST)**

Many UIS students work with faculty to create a semester-long or year long off-campus self-directed study program. Since the students create their own program, the experiences are widely varied, but many are similar to internships in government or for a public official.

The AST becomes mutually beneficial because of the service provided to government during this experience.

**Online Education**

UIS is a national leader in online education in higher education. Enrollment in online programs and the percentage of credit hours generated in online courses at UIS has continued to increase every semester for more than ten years. UIS now has 16 complete degree programs offered online.

UIS has received more national achievement awards for online education than any other university in the U.S., and received two more awards in 2010 from the Sloan Consortium, a national group of online educators.

The Master of Arts in Teacher Leadership (MTL) program was the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Online Program Award. Also in 2010, Ray Schroeder, Professor/Director of the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service (COLRS), was the recipient of the inaugural A. Frank Mayadas Leadership Award.

COLRS works with a number of state agencies on developing online program initiatives and is currently involved with: Illinois Department of Public Health on a statewide HIV AIDS awareness project, Illinois Department of Transportation on a statewide training program for road and highway construction safety workers, Illinois Department of Aging on a series of training and information programs to serve those working with the aged in Illinois, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources on a course for K/12 teachers about the resources of the state.

![UIS Online & Blended Enrollment](chart.png)
The Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) serves the state of Illinois by promoting excellence in government. Since 1947, IGPA has provided information and activities that enlighten and educate elected officials, students and the public.

Over the past year, IGPA demonstrated continued dedication to this mission by connecting academic research to practice, fostering dialogue about critical issues facing Illinois, and providing unique experiences for citizens to engage in public affairs. The following highlights illustrate IGPA’s service to the state.

Connecting Research to Practice

An essential component of IGPA’s mission is producing and distributing research and analysis of public policy issues. The IGPA team includes 21 faculty members, each of whom holds a joint appointment in a department on one of the three U of I campuses. They conduct research on issues ranging from regional economies to local and national healthcare systems to energy grids and smart technology.

IGPA uses several avenues to connect the renowned research produced by our experts to leaders in the public and private sectors. IGPA produces top-quality publications such as:

- The University of Illinois Flash Index, a monthly barometer measuring Illinois’ economic condition
- The Illinois Report, a yearly non-partisan assessment of Illinois’ most pressing policy issues
- The bi-monthly Policy Forum detailing new findings from IGPA’s faculty researchers

More than 1,000 copies of The Illinois Report 2010 provided important analysis on issues including health care reform and economic recovery. U of I Flash Index is delivered to the public each month by local newspapers, radio and television. IGPA experts are also quoted extensively by local and national news media and several published op-ed articles, providing important context and commentary.

IGPA is home to four specialized centers of study. Each made important contributions to the state this year:

- The Office of Public Leadership develops and delivers leadership and management training, mentoring and other learning opportunities for elected and appointed government officials, primarily at the local level.
- The Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) conducts analysis for federal and state organizations and foundations that are addressing the state’s key health, education and human service challenges. For example, CPRD provided several educational assessments to help schools refine and approve reform initiatives.
- The Center for Public Safety and Justice (CPSJ) helps Illinois communities identify
problems and work together to implement solutions. For example, CPSJ developed a computer game that will help educate Illinois children about effective responses to threats.

- The Regional Economics Applications Laboratory (REAL) assists decision makers in public and private sectors by developing tools that provide timely, high quality information and forecasts of local economic conditions.

### Fostering Dialogue

IGPA creates enlightened discussion about issues facing Illinois. Through lecture series, policy luncheons, direct consulting, and media outreach, IGPA engages in the shared project of deliberation and debate necessary to democracy. Forging partnerships with civic organizations and state associations, IGPA opens policy discussion to a broader audience beyond government and academia.

In 2009-2010, IGPA held several conferences, such as:

- The Family Impact Seminar, held in March, brought together experts on social and emotional learning to discuss strategies to improve Illinois education.
- The FAIR Housing Conference, held in April, focused on ways to increase awareness and effectiveness of legislation and programming for housing equity.
- New Perspectives on Health and Health Policy, a conference held in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, brought together national experts to discuss health policy.

### Providing Unique Experiences for Public Affairs

IGPA’s commitment to public affairs programming is a cornerstone of its mission. Several activities, including speaker series, lectures, and round-table discussions provide learning experiences for Illinois citizens each year. Two initiatives were especially successful this year:

- The June 2010 NEW Leadership Illinois seminar, provided opportunities for 20 college juniors and seniors to interact with state legislators, educators, and government officials. This week-long program provides hands-on training in ethics, communication, and policymaking, and encourages students to make long term commitments to public service. Over five years, the program has built a strong network of more than 100 female leaders, many of whom serve the state in a many capacities. NEW Leadership Illinois is co-sponsored by “The Conference of Women Legislators of the Illinois General Assembly.”
- The University of Illinois Leadership Academy, operated by the IGPA Office of Public Leadership, provides an advanced curriculum of training and mentoring opportunities for elected and appointed government officials. Throughout a six weekend experience, IGPA experts from various disciplines provide essential information to inform the participants’ decision-making at all levels of government in Illinois communities.

To learn more about IGPA or to download IGPA’s 2009-2010 Annual report, visit [http://igpa.uillinois.edu](http://igpa.uillinois.edu)
University Outreach and Public Service

University Outreach and Public Service (UOPS), reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, is a University central support unit that provides coordination, expertise, and support to the educational outreach and public engagement initiatives of the University’s three campuses and central administration.

Our Mission:
- Extend and support the University of Illinois campuses’ continuing education, professional development and service offerings throughout the state
- Work with local and regional leaders to match the resources of the University of Illinois to community needs
- Assist the campuses with promotion, delivery, and student support for both off-campus and online programming
- Facilitate appropriate partnerships between the University of Illinois and other organizations
- Develop and support partnerships between our campuses and Illinois community colleges

As part of the implementation of its mission, UOPS manages an instructional facility in Oak Brook which serves all three campuses. It also represents the campuses and University at the University Center of Lake County, the Quad-Cities Graduate Study Center, and other regional and statewide consortia.

Also included under the UOPS umbrella are the affiliated units of UI Online (including the Illinois Virtual Campus and Illinois Online Network), Illinois P-20 Education, Illinois Project Lead the Way, and AdvanceED Illinois (home of NCA-CASI). These units work closely together on multiple projects and initiatives while also maintaining the excellence of their core missions.

Snapshot: AY10 Accomplishments
- Developed an effective community college relationship model to market the University’s online courses and programs, including a community college Web portal and college-specific transfer guides for baccalaureate-completion programs
- Implemented a Customer Relationship Management System (CRM/Talisma) to recruit and support students enrolled in the University’s online programs
- Crafted and grew program-based recruitment “pipelines” for University online programs
- Developed a new hybrid model for the delivery of Continuing Medical Education (CME) programming
- “Right sized” Oak Brook Education Center
- Coordinated transition of Global Campus initiative to campus-based UI Online
- Expanded P-20 Education Initiative to include the Higher Education Consortium for the Illinois Longitudinal Data System and support of the Illinois P-20 Council
- Garnered federal support for an open source textbook from University of Illinois
- Provided strategic assistance to University Centers in Lake County and Quad-Cities confronting lack of payment by State

Education Outreach and Support: UOPS Regional Offices

UOPS Regional Offices are the bridges between the University and regions around the state. Through support to the campuses, outreach to local communities, and partnership activities, UOPS enables Illinois citizens and communities to more easily access the rich resources and educational programming of the University.

UOPS complements the work of the campuses
and units, and ensures that they have the tools they need to deliver programming and engage in partnership activities throughout the state. In AY 2010, UOPS supported 674 University of Illinois courses and activities around the state with over 6,756 enrollments.

**Supporting Online and Off-Campus Students**

In AY 2010 UOPS Regional Offices directly impacted thousands more citizens through additional services:

- UOPS help desks through the UI Online, UOPS, and Illinois Educator websites answered over 6,000 inquiries from prospective students and other citizens
- Proctored over 100 exams for online and on-site students around the state
- Attended 110 college fairs and partnership meetings at Illinois community colleges
- Handled thousands of information calls and resource referrals for the University

**Oak Brook Education Center**

The University of Illinois, through UOPS, operates the Oak Brook Education Center, a state-of-the-art instructional facility with classrooms, conference rooms, computer labs, and video conferencing capability plus offices and support for teaching faculty.

Oak Brook’s central location, technology and facilities enable it to provide a supportive environment for off-campus programming emanating from the University’s three campuses.

Established over 20 years ago as the Multi-University Center at Oak Brook, a positive legacy of that period is that other universities and organizations continue to offer programming at Oak Brook, creating a revenue stream to assist in the Center’s operations while better serving the I-88 Research and Development Corridor.

In June 2010 the Oak Brook Education Center suffered major damage from a tornado but, after much diligence and hard work, reopened by Labor Day for the start of Fall 2010 courses.

In AY 2010 the facility supported a broad array of University of Illinois and other public universities’ credit and noncredit programming, including 132 courses, seminars, and activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Courses/Activities</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
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<td>Credit</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>48</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>Springfield</td>
<td>189</td>
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<td>Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noncredit</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>674</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,756</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
with 2,238 enrollments. Examples of programming include the following:

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Administration (Urbana-Champaign)
- Master of Education (Ed.M.) in Educational Administration and Leadership (Urbana-Champaign)
- Certificate of Business Administration, Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies (Chicago)
- Problem and Computer Gambler Counselor Training Program (Springfield)
- Spanish/English Pesticide Safety Program (UI-Extension)

For more information, visit [http://www.uops.uillinois.edu](http://www.uops.uillinois.edu)

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**UI-Service Public Service Database**

The University of Illinois organizes and runs thousands of outreach and service programs and activities in every region of the state of Illinois. Every day University of Illinois faculty and staff reach out in countless ways to extend the teaching, learning, and research of the University’s campuses to the citizens and communities of Illinois.

The UI-Service public service database, managed by University Outreach and Public Service, is a powerful search tool for Illinois citizens to find out what the University of Illinois is doing in their communities. Interested citizens can search by region, by their area of interest, or by programs targeted to their age group.

For example, a search of the Southwestern Illinois region yields information on the East St. Louis Action Research Project and the KaBoom playground built this year.

To find out more, visit the UI-Service website at: [http://www.uops.uillinois.edu/UI-Service](http://www.uops.uillinois.edu/UI-Service)

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**University of Illinois Online**

University of Illinois Online (UI Online) is a central resource for marketing and recruiting activities for the e-learning and distance education opportunities available from the University’s three campuses.

To this end, the UI Online website provides visibility for the programs and courses along with detailed information for prospective students. The UI Online website received over 320,000 visitors in AY 2010, providing great recruitment potential for the University’s online programming.

From the website, prospective or current students can submit questions or directly request information from the program coordinators. On average, the website receives over 490 requests per month or 16 per day.
Plans for the upcoming year include efforts to further develop and present program information that will help prospective students in their search for higher education programming.

UI Online staff also work directly with campus program coordinators to help develop marketing and recruitment materials, including website content, electronic advertisements, and written promotional pieces.

In addition, the utilization of Talisma, the Customer Relationship Management tool, allows UI Online to provide department and campus contacts with up to date information on requests, current and complete student information, as well as detailed and up to the minute reports.

For more information on the online programs from the University of Illinois campuses, visit the UI Online website at: http://www.online.uillinois.edu

**Illinois Virtual Campus**

The Illinois Virtual Campus (IVC) provides prospective and current students with easy access to information about online courses and programs available through colleges and universities in Illinois, and provides support services for online learners throughout the state.

The IVC serves 75 public and private colleges and universities by referring potential students who inquire about online programs via the IVC Web site to the institution(s) that best match the individuals’ requirements. There were nearly 1,000 such referrals in 2009-2010.

The online catalog lists more than 323 degrees and certificates, and more than 6,000 courses. The IVC’s leadership has encouraged the development of quality, comprehensive, cost effective online education offerings within higher education in Illinois.

IVC provides valuable information to institutions that offer distance education programs and courses so that they are better prepared to serve the needs of students, and respond to changing situations.

**IVC Website**
http://www.ivc.uillinois.edu

The IVC website is the primary means of reaching potential online students in Illinois. The site has an average of 11,000 visitors per month. The most highly visited section of the website is the Course Detail page (1,400 visits per month), and the Program Search page (900 visits per month).
AskIVC

AskIVC is a pre-admissions service for potential distance education students who visit the IVC website, complete a web-based form, and inquire about the availability of distance education courses or degrees.

Students receive individualized responses from IVC staff that take into consideration constraints that the potential students have indicated are important to them, such as shortest time to completion, lowest cost, or closest to a particular region of the state.

Distance Education Enrollment Reporting

IVC provides the Illinois statewide distance education enrollment report once each semester that enumerates enrollments in five categories of distance education courses, including completely online courses. The report is available for viewing by anyone interested in the growth of online learning in Illinois.

Illinois Online Network

The Illinois Online Network (ION) is dedicated to providing comprehensive professional development opportunities in the area of online teaching and learning to faculty and staff from higher education institutions in Illinois.

ION’s mission is to promote the effective use of networked information technologies, to enhance traditional classroom instruction, and to build the foundation for developing, delivering and supporting online education.

Making the Virtual Classroom a Reality (MVCR) Series

AY 2010 saw important milestones for the Illinois Online Network. Building on more than ten years of faculty development success, ION saw more than 1,000 enrollments in its Making the Virtual Classroom a Reality (MVCR) series. University of Illinois Springfield credit students and University of Illinois faculty and staff were two sources of increased registrations.

New institutional memberships by schools in Illinois and Texas, and also in Canada, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates have also brought in new participants. The rate of successful completions in MVCR classes continues at approximately 80%.
Online Certificate Programs

One attractive component of the MVCR program is the Master Online Teacher certificate (MOT).

During AY 2010, 59 MOT certificates were awarded. In addition, another certificate program was created, the Certified Online Learning Administrator program (COLA). The COLA program has similarities to the MOT, but with a focus on meeting the orientation and ongoing professional development needs of the administrative directors, administrators, and support staff who make online learning programs successful.

As online learning rapidly becomes a mainstream component of the higher education landscape, the COLA program will be there to prepare new or existing college staff for working with online-focused students.

New MVCR Courses

In AY 2010, ION added the Blended/Hybrid Learning and Teaching course to the regular schedule of eight week courses as an elective in the MOT and COLA programs.

Supporting Students Online is a course that was previously among the four week advanced online seminars. ION retooled and expanded the course to serve the MOT and COLA programs as well.

New four week courses were released in AY 2010 including Mobile Learning, Group Work, and Social Networking Strategies. All these new courses resulted in increased enrollments.

For more information, visit http://www.ion.uillinois.edu
P-20 Education Initiatives

P-20 education signifies a national concern for treating early childhood through higher education as a continuous system. The University of Illinois provides leadership for the Illinois P-20 Collaborative which works with Illinois educators on a variety of initiatives statewide to improve teaching, learning and achievement.

These initiatives provide a means to harness the strengths of colleges and universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, business and industry in ways that increase the impact of each on the P-20 system. In AY 2010, this involvement included the following:

**Illinois P-20 Council**

The Illinois P-20 Council was legislatively established by the Illinois General Assembly to develop a statewide agenda that will move the state towards the common goals of improving academic achievement, increasing college access and success, improving use of existing data and measurements, developing improved accountability, fostering innovative approaches to education, promoting lifelong learning, easing the transition to college, and reducing remediation.

The P-20 Council will study and make recommendations concerning pre-kindergarten through grade 20 education in order to avoid fragmentation of policies, promote improved teaching and learning, and continue to cultivate and demonstrate strong accountability and efficiency.

During 2010-2011, the crucial first year of the Illinois P-20 Council’s start-up phase, the University of Illinois is providing professional educator staff to coordinate strategic planning and offer expertise to the Council and its many stakeholders.

Grants from the Chicago Community Trust, IBHE, and ICCB support the University in this critical work for the Illinois Governor’s Office and the P-20 community.
Illinois State Longitudinal Data System Project

The P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act, Public Act 096-0107, became effective July 30, 2009. It is landmark legislation, which will allow leaders in education and the general public, to follow students and their performance throughout their formal school experience and beyond. Specifically, the longitudinal data system is intended to link student test scores, length of enrollment, and graduation records over time. By June 20, 2013, Illinois will have in place a searchable longitudinal data system.

The Illinois higher education community is responding to the ILDS statute by developing a new data consortium as permitted by the ILDS law. Staff at the University of Illinois, in conjunction with staff from Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) are providing leadership for the effort by arranging the meetings and communication necessary for the development of the infrastructure for the higher education institutions to participate in the ILDS. Integral to that movement is establishment of a Higher Education Consortium (HEC).

A website has been set up in order to provide the stakeholders of the ILDS project with regular updates on project status, materials from ILDS meetings, and a means to send in comments, suggestions, and feedback.

Visit the website at: http://www.illinoiseducator.uillinois.edu/ILDS

u.select

u.select is an online transfer advising tool that allows students and advisors to obtain up-to-date information on program requirements, view course-by-course equivalencies, and run personalized degree reports that can combine enrollment across institutions and be used to track student progress toward specific degrees.

This capability enables students in higher education, particularly underrepresented students, to more easily access information about transfer to baccalaureate-granting institutions and to make the most of their time and money as they work toward degree completion.

In FY 2010 all 12 Illinois public universities, the 48 community colleges, and seven independent institutions participated in u.select. The u.select Illinois project goal is to expand participation throughout the state and, in AY 2010, u.select participated in more than 30 promotional events.

The u.select Illinois project team collaborates with other organizations to maximize shared resources and to develop new solutions for technology and funding challenges facing non-participating schools.

Funding is provided through a grant to the University of Illinois from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, allowing the system to be free to students. Participating institutions also provide support.

For more information, visit https://www.transfer.org/uselect/
**Associate of Arts in Teaching Initiative**

Roughly one-half of prospective teachers take a portion of their coursework at a community college. The Associate of Arts in Teaching Initiative developed AAT degree models to attract students into high need teaching disciplines and facilitate the transfer of community college students into upper-division teacher education programs.

The University of Illinois provided initial staffing and leadership for the initiative and continues providing expertise in 2010 through the statewide AAT Steering Committee.

**Online Professional Development for Illinois Math and Science Teachers**

The University of Illinois received a two-year IBHE funded grant through the No Child Left Behind (NCLB): Improving Teacher Quality state grant program to develop and implement an online professional development model for middle and high school teachers in the State of Illinois. The model would enhance teachers’ knowledge and instructional practice, and ultimately, student achievement in mathematics and science.

The project developed and delivered a series of four to eight week online professional development courses on special topics in mathematics and science, in collaboration with the College of Education at the Urbana-Champaign campus and the Illinois Math and Science Academy. Topics of individual courses were based on the learning needs of teachers and their students in partnering public school districts in Illinois.

During the two years of the project, teachers could enroll in the courses at no charge and earn Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs) for each course they completed.

**K-12 Continuing Professional Development Unit Coordination**

University of Illinois Outreach and Public Service provides coordination of Illinois K-12 teacher Continuing Professional Development Unit recognition for most noncredit workshops, institutes, and special events sponsored by the Urbana-Champaign campus and University Administration. In AY 2010, a total of 68 workshops, institutes, and online activities in a wide range of P-20 best practices and content areas provided more than 23,000 total contact hours to almost 1,600 teachers and other participants statewide.

**Illinois Educator Web Portal**

The Illinois Educator P-20 Collaborative website is a resource for teachers, administrators, school personnel and others interested in topics and issues affecting teaching and learning in Illinois schools. Educators can access information on teacher prep programs, teacher recruitment, professional development, policy issues, and research-based effective practices, as well as on statewide initiatives such as Illinois Longitudinal Data System, Associate of Arts in Teaching, and Open Source Textbook.

For more information, visit the website at: [http://www.illinoiseducator.uillinois.edu](http://www.illinoiseducator.uillinois.edu)
For many people, the AdvancED® name is new, but it is a name built on a 100-year dedication to raising the quality of education. The multifaceted approach to promoting excellence establishes AdvancED as the thought leader in the field. We maintain this role through an expert combination of:

- School Improvement
- Accreditation
- Product Innovation
- Research
- Knowledge Management
- Educational Technologies
- Professional Learning

While AdvancED is one of the premier accreditation organizations in the world, its passion is school improvement and knowledge leadership in education.

AdvancEd not only helps schools and school districts navigate the process of school improvement, it maximizes the effectiveness of their efforts. AdvancED systems and tools probe internal and external perspectives, each critical to powerful school improvement.

In Illinois, AdvancED serves over 550 schools and seven districts have successfully achieved the status of District Accreditation – together these data impact nearly 400,000 PK-12 students. AdvancEd continuously accumulates a wealth of invaluable information giving the organization the capacity to:

- Study the effects of accreditation
- Share best practices
- Develop innovative research-based products
- Provide extensive stakeholder perception data

The results of accumulated research help the organization shape educational policy and strengthen learning practices worldwide. And the efforts of Illinois’ accredited schools and school districts help ensure that quality education is delivered to students each and every day.

A summary of AdvancED Illinois accomplishments include:

**Planned Professional Development Opportunities**

- Coordinated 15 workshops focused on assessment processes and procedures,
Conducted External Quality Assurance Review Visits

- 68 Illinois schools hosted Quality Assurance Review (QAR) visits coordinated by the AdvancED Illinois state office

Collaborated and Partnered with Multiple Associations

- Illinois Principal’s Association: Board of Director’s Liaison and AdvancED Illinois State Council Member
- Illinois Association of School Administrators: Board of Director’s Liaison
- Illinois Association of School Boards
- Coalition for Illinois High Schools: Board Member; and Facilitated and Coordinated Statewide Conference
- Regional Office of Education
- U.S. Department of Education Regional Center: Illinois Representative on Advisory Board

Project Lead The Way

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a nationwide program that aims to foster increased interest in careers in engineering, science, and technology by promoting a pre-engineering curriculum for middle and high school students.

PLTW, offered in almost 4,000 schools in 50 states, forms partnerships with public and private schools, higher education institutions and the private sector to meet our country’s need for increased quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists.

The PLTW high school curriculum is a project and problem-based curriculum of eight courses. The PLTW Gateway to Technology is a modular middle school science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) curriculum.

The University of Illinois became one of 35 Affiliate Universities nationwide in 2004, and developed a plan for statewide program collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Bradley University. Illinois PLTW school membership has grown quickly, and the program seeks to involve more females and under-represented minorities. Growth is reflected in the following:
Illinois PLTW schools grew from 12 in AY 2005 to 99 schools in AY 2010, with 113 anticipated for AY 2011.

- 6,054 high school students were enrolled in one or more of the PLTW courses in AY 2010 (19% female; 35% minority)
- More than 5,000 middle school students were exposed to one or more of the middle school Gateway To Technology PLTW course modules in AY 2010 (50% female; 15% minority)

The University of Illinois coordinated statewide PLTW professional development activities providing over 8,700 contact hours, including:

- Intensive two-week summer teacher training institutes at the Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses for 86 teachers
- An October 2009 statewide conference for 175 school administrators, counselors, and teachers
- Regional roundtables with 74 attendees for teacher and technology training liaison activities

Other special state and national outreach efforts included:

- 40 site visits to schools for PLTW program certification review and onsite school consulting.
- Provided logistical support for April 2010 national PLTW Core Training Institute in Chicago attended by more than 400 master teachers from around the country.
- Exploration of expanded opportunities for math, science, engineering, and technology outreach by the University to K-12 schools involved with Project Lead The Way.

The University of Illinois' Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses have hosted teacher Summer Training Institutes for the Digital Electronics, Introduction to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, Biotechnical Engineering and Gateway to Technology PLTW courses. The University is also considering hosting teacher training for a new Biomedical Sciences curriculum strand.
The University of Illinois Project Lead the Way effort has taken the lead in promoting collaboration among high schools, career and technical programs, two and four-year colleges and universities, and state educational agencies in efforts to coordinate program participation and data collection, to assess impact of PLTW program participation on student achievement, and to support creative program delivery options around the state.

For more information, visit http://www.pltw.uillinois.edu/

Conclusion

The University of Illinois remains committed to its tripartite mission of providing meaningful access to its teaching, research, and service by engaging with Illinois citizens and communities through a range of initiatives that are meant to meet local, regional, and statewide needs. In this way, the University is able to extend its impact in a broader spectrum, statewide.

The University continually assesses its educational outreach and public engagement initiatives, with an eye to identifying appropriate but underserved audiences, then determining the optimal ways to provide meaningful access. As distributed and distance learning modalities and technologies have evolved in recent years, the University now finds itself ever more nimble in extending access to the University to ever more Illinois citizens and communities.

The University is proactive and adapting to meet the opportunities and challenges presented.

How can we help you?

An electronic copy of this report may be accessed at http://www.uops.uillinois.edu
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