

IAIR Newsletter

Illinois Association for Institutional Research

October 2001


IAIR Conference--November 1 and 2, 2001

Rhonda Kline

The 31st Annual IAIR conference is quickly approaching! This year's conference will be held at Eagle Ridge Inn and Resort near Galena, Illinois. An IPEDS pre-conference workshop will be held Thursday, November 1 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM. The conference will begin at noon with a luncheon and keynote speaker Dr. Jennifer Presley, Director of the Illinois Education Research Council at SIU-Edwardsville. Her topic is "Building Bridges: Using Research to Think P-16 in Illinois". Afternoon sessions will begin at 2:00 PM and end at 4:30 PM. A reception and table topics will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 PM followed by a buffet dinner and entertainment.

Friday's program includes a keynote session from the Higher Learning Commission, "All About the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP)", followed by an AQIP panel. An additional panel, "Where Have All your Students Gone? How to Identify Your Students' and Applicants' Enrollment at Other Institutions" will also be presented Friday morning. Concurrent sessions will follow the panels. We have a very full program this year, covering a wide range of institutional research topics.

The conference registration deadline is Monday, October 22. The hotel reservation deadline has passed (Oct. 1), but Eagle Ridge will continue to honor the conference rates as long as there is availability.

You can find the preliminary program and information about Eagle Ridge and Galena at the IAIR web site: www.ir.ilstu.edu/IAIR. A Galena visitor's guide will be included in your conference packet. 

FERPA v. State Sunshine Laws

Carol Livingstone

The U.S. Department of Education, the federal agency charged with ensuring compliance with the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act, last fall issued a statement on the relationship of FERPA to state Freedom of Information acts ("Sunshine laws") that surprised many of us in public colleges and universities. LeRoy S. Rooker, Director of the Family Policy Compliance Office of the Department of Education, wrote a little-publicized letter to the American Federation of Teachers. In his letter, he stated that the titles, wages, department, terms and conditions of employment for student employees are considered to be part of the educational record of the student and may not be disclosed publicly, even when the students are paid from public funds and such disclosure is mandated by state Freedom of Information

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A Message from Your President

I look forward to seeing all of you at the fall conference in Galena. Rhonda Kline has been working on this conference for the better part of two years, and the lineup of speakers, presentations, and events she has assembled is impressive.

To accommodate two plenary speakers, the conference schedule has been rearranged a bit this year. The first speaker, Dr. Jennifer Presley, is new to Illinois but is no stranger to institutional research. She has served as an officer of NEAIR, our sister association in the Northeast, and has held policy and planning positions at the Universities of Maryland, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts, in the NSF, and at WestEd. In her current role as Director of the Illinois Education Research Council, Dr. Presley will discuss her vision for P-16 education in Illinois.

The second plenary session will focus on the North Central Association's new AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Project) initiative. If you have not heard of this project, you may wish to read up in advance at <http://www.aqip.org>. Having now survived two accreditation cycles at the University of Illinois, I have learned how critical it is for institutional researchers to understand the accreditation process.

The number of individual papers and presentations in Galena may reach an all-time high (is anyone keeping statistics on this?), with three and four papers in each concurrent session time slot. Many thanks to all of you who have taken the time to share your knowledge and experience with your peers.

IAIR depends on the contributions of time and talent from many volunteers, and I'd like to remind you of another opportunity to be of service to your colleagues around the state. If you plan to attend the AIR conference in Toronto this June, let me encourage you to consider applying up for AIR's "Train the Trainer" program. AIR will pay for your preconference workshop fee, and IAIR will pay for your Saturday night's lodging. In return, you will be asked to present the workshop at next fall's IAIR meeting. There is no better way to learn a topic than to teach it! If you are interested, talk to me or any of the other officers at the IAIR conference this fall.

Carol Livingstone
IAIR President 

THE IAIR NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a publication of the Illinois Association of Institutional Research (IAIR). It is intended to provide information on issues and events important to members of the Association. It is produced semi-annually in October and April/May. The newsletter is published in both paper and electronic form. The electronic form may be accessed via the Internet on the IAIR website at:

<http://www.ppsis.ilstu.edu/IAIR/default.asp>

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How to Be in Two Places at Once


Rich Jachino

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) staff is currently working with the Illinois Video Education Network (IVEN) to implement a new state-wide video reservation system. IVEN is a two-way, interactive video network established through a joint initiative of the IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

IVEN is built upon the foundation of ten regional video networks that include public and private universities and colleges, community colleges, secondary schools, health care facilities, and a few business locations. The network currently supports over 450 video sites located throughout Illinois. For more information about the IVEN network and video room locations throughout the state, visit the IVEN Web site at: <http://www.iven.net/>.

The new Web-based reservation system will be an invaluable tool for schedulers to check the availability of all IVEN video rooms. The state-wide scheduling system will also:

- Standardize the video room reservation system for all video classrooms
- Provide easy Web-based access to video educational facilities throughout the state
- Encourage better use of video classrooms
- Provide accurate, consistent, statistical information on video classroom use for Consortia Directors, institutions, IBHE, ICCB, and others.

To access the reservation system, you must have a valid user-id and password. For more information about the reservation system, feel free to contact Rich Jachino, Assistant Director, IBHE at: (217) 557-7339, or jachino@ibhe.org . 

Positions and Openings

The Office of Research and Planning at McHenry County College is looking for a Research and Assessment Associate. This is a new position in a three-person office. Responsibilities involve program review, assessment support, and general institutional research. Inquiries about the application process may be emailed to Donald Quirk at dquirk@mchenry.cc.il.us . 

IMSA Study Wins Statewide Research Award


A multi-year research study partnership between the Illinois Math and Science Academy and Shepard High School in Palos Heights, Illinois, recently was selected for the 2001 Winn Research Award, sponsored by the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (IASCD).

The research study, A Four-Year Contrast Between High School Students in Interdisciplinary and Discipline-Based Curriculum Programs: Behavioral and Academic Implications, was selected for the award "because of its potential impact upon teaching and learning in Illinois classrooms."


"I am very honored to be the co-recipient of this award, particularly because it showcases a highly successful program of school innovation," Dr. Cordogan said. "The study clearly demonstrated that student learning and attitudes can be significantly improved on a large scale through a concerted effort by creatively motivated administrators and faculty."

The research partnership began in 1993 when Shepard teachers and administrators wanted to meet the needs of "at-risk" students better. As a result, Shepard High School developed the Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning (ITL) Program, which integrated English, mathematics, science and social science courses for "at-risk" students. The program later expanded to also include mainstream students, including an honors group. A subsequent research partnership with IMSA led to a four-year study tracking the first graduating class of students that were educated under the program and contrasting them with students in the school's discipline-based program.

The award-winning research study found that the ITL Program had a very positive effect on student learning and behavior and that interdisciplinary teachers expressed a strong preference for their teaching experience over prior non-integrative ones.

The text of the study is available on the IMSA Office of Research and Evaluation website at <http://www.imsa.edu/team/re/shepard.html> . 

Comings and Goings

Kaskaskia College welcomes Nancy Kinsey as Director of Institutional Research and Planning. Nancy comes to Kaskaskia College from Rend Lake College. She holds Donna Hilgenbrink's previous position. Donna is now Dean of Information Technology and Interim VP to Administrative Services. Congratulations, Nancy and Donna. 

IPEDS TRAINING SESSION AGENDA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2001

8:30 – 11:30

Welcome and Introduction
Overview of 2001-2002 Collection
Schedules – Deadlines – Implications
Overview of All Sessions
Fall Session – IC and Completions
 Changes in Surveys
Particular Issues and Concerns
Spring Session – Enrollments & Finance & Grad Rate & SFA
 Changes in Surveys
Particular Issues and Concerns
Winter Session – Salaries & Fall Staff & Employees by Assigned
Position
 Changes in Surveys
 Particular Issues and Concerns

Break

Navigate on the Winter Session
 Role of Keyholder
 Screening Questions

Definitions – Glossary of Terms

HELP

 Data Entry
 Error Resolution
 Edit Checks
 Locking
 Data Export


Printing

Questions/Answers for all Sessions


(If time permits, Peer Analysis and COOL) 

FERPA v. Sunshine, continued from page 1.

laws.

For example, the long-standing practice at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was to include the names, titles, appointing departments, and office addresses for all graduate assistants in our printed staff directory. We believed that this practice was justified because these students were recipients of public funds and such appointments could not be kept secret under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. In addition, we have always published the names and class assignments of teaching assistants in our course timetable. However, under this new interpretation from the Department of Education, both the UIUC Staff Directory and Timetable were in violation of FERPA. 

Meeting Announcements

The next Chicago-Area Community College Researchers meeting will be held on March 22nd at Joliet Junior College. If you would like to attend but are not already on the mailing list, contact Mary Lou D'Allegro at mdallegr@jic.cc.il.us. 

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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