


IAIR Newsletter

May 2001

IAIR Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Illinois Association of Institutional Research is scheduled for November 1-2, 2001 at the Eagle Ridge Resort near Galena. The meeting theme will be "30 Years of IAIR: Learning from the Past; Preparing for the Future." In keeping with the theme, we want to be sure to invite members and officers from the early years of the Association. If you know the whereabouts of any of the members from the '70s who are no longer active in IAIR, please contact Rhonda Kline at rhonda_kline@cmail.wiu.edu with their names and addresses where they can be reached.

This year, the Association has introduced a special reduced registration rate for full-time graduate students. We hope that this small enticement may persuade a few graduate students vacillating between a career in investment banking and one in institutional research to consider the latter a little more seriously.

The call for proposals will be distributed soon, so it's not too soon to look over those IR highlight films from your office and to consider a project that you might want to share. The deadline for proposals will be July 31st. 

A Note of Thanks

At the November 2000 IAIR Fall Meeting, the Association presented a Special Recognition Award to Trudy Bers of Oakton Community College. Other obligations made it impossible for her to attend the meeting; however, at a recent meeting of the Chicago-Area Community College Research Group, Harlan Schweer presented the award to Trudy. Harlan received the following letter shortly after that presentation.

Dear Harlan:

I am truly honored to have received the Illinois Association for Institutional Research Special Recognition Award. Throughout my tenure as research director at Oakton I have found the support, knowledge and collaborative spirit of my IAIR colleagues to be truly exemplary.

When I first became involved in IR I heard there was a new Illinois association. It took some diligence to find out who was involved and how I might be part of the group. Since those early years the visibility and importance of IAIR have continued to grow, and I believe some of the most important research initiatives in Illinois—especially the shared datafiles—could not have occurred absent the climate of mutual respect and cooperation that IAIR has done so much to foster.

Other than the California AIR, we may be the only state association that has not affiliated with a regional AIR organization. When I tell people this, I hasten to add that we are sufficiently large to sustain a vigorous program on our own. Moreover, it's my perception that we have come to value IAIR as a forum in which important and critical state issues can be discussed if not resolved. That explanation continues, in my view, to characterize IAIR and to illustrate why, though I'm unable to make every conference or AIR forum function, I continue to perceive my IAIR membership to be among my most important professional associations.

Please extend my thanks for the honor bestowed on me to the IAIR board and entire membership. I look forward to seeing many of my IAIR friends and colleagues in Long Beach.

With sincere gratitude,

Trudy Bers 

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Comings and Goings

Raquel Duszynski has joined Moraine Valley Community College as a Research Analyst. Before coming to MVCC, Raquel worked as a Research Manager at Sears. She can be reached at duszynski@moraine.cc.il.us

The College of Lake County has added two new Research Associates this year, **Kathryn Rogalski** and **Arlene Santos-George**.

Oakton's **Gene Atkin** has announced his planned retirement for December, 2001. Oakton will be initiating a search for Gene's replacement (to begin work October 1 to allow a three-month overlap for acclimation, training, etc.). 

Responsibility Center Management and the IR Office

Carol Livingstone, UIUC

Starting in FY98, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign developed a new budgeting system based on the principles of responsibility center management. The new system, relying heavily on data provided by our campus IR office, has generated an extraordinary interest in the information we provide and propels our IR function (rather reluctantly) to center stage at this time of year.

The fundamental concept of responsibility center management is that the administrators of each academic unit ("responsibility center") should understand the relationship between their actions and the generation of revenue and costs for the campus. Each academic unit should benefit from actions that increase revenue, and each unit should pay for decisions that increase costs.

At Illinois, undergraduate tuition revenue for the coming year is "earned" by the academic units based on a formula. Half of the tuition is distributed to the "home" college of a student, and the remaining half is distributed to the colleges based on the proportion of credit hours they teach. Colleges successful at attracting more majors (or more out-of-state majors who pay much higher tuition) or at creating courses that attract a greater number of students, will see budget increases.

A portion of state general revenue funds is also distributed by formula to encourage certain mission-critical activities by colleges. Ten percent of our GRF is distributed to colleges based on their share of graduate credit hours taught (5%, about \$15 million) and on the share of the campus Indirect Cost Recovery earnings from grants (5%). These two factors were chosen to reward colleges that contribute to the research and graduate instruction missions of our campus. Another five percent of GRF is distributed to units based on the FTE tenure-system faculty in

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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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Don't Forget "Transfer: The Forgotten Function of Community Colleges"

This summer, Oakton Community College and Johnson County Community College (KS) will co-sponsor a conference devoted to the topic of student transfer. The national conference will be held on July 30-31 at Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. Information, registration forms, etc. can be found at the conference website, <http://www.oakton.edu/resource/transfer>. 

A Letter from AIR

I am writing to remind you of the Employment Clearinghouse, to be held at the AIR Forum in Long Beach. Last year's Forum attracted nearly two dozen employers and three dozen applicants to the first Clearinghouse, and their satisfaction with the experience encouraged us to expand the service. If your school or organization has an opening or you know of someone in the IR field looking for employment, I urge you to participate in the Clearinghouse.

Here are the details: The Clearinghouse will be housed in the Long Beach Convention Center, Room 203C. The hours will be Sun., June 3, from 1-4 PM, Mon. and Tues., from 10-4, and Weds., from 10-12 noon. Employers will be charged \$25 to register with the Clearinghouse, must hold a current AIR membership, and must be registered for the Forum. Position descriptions will be posted in viewing binders that will be available for perusal at the Clearinghouse site.

There is no charge for anyone seeking employment. Applicants must also be registered for the Forum, and are requested to bring 10 copies of their resume or vita for inclusion in the viewing binders. There will be a small copier on site on which resumes or job descriptions may be copied for \$3.00 each.

The Clearinghouse will be staffed at all times. The staff member will facilitate communication between employers and applicants. For reasons of privacy and limited space, interested parties should schedule interviews in another location. Confidentiality is assured; no blind ads will be accepted.


If you wish to participate in the 2001 AIR Employment Clearinghouse, please send an electronic copy of the job description to air@mailer.fsu.edu by 4:00 pm on Friday, May 25, 2001. Late additions may also be submitted at the Forum. Remember that you or your representative must register for the Forum. If you are unable to be present in Long Beach but wish to post a job description on the Electronic AIR web site, please contact Patricia J. McClintock (pmcclintock@indstate.edu). If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the AIR central office (air@mailer.fsu.edu), the Forum Chair (John Porter, porterjo@sysadm.suny.edu), or me (Ellen Kanarek, ekanarek@aer.princeton.nj.us). I look forward to meeting you in Long Beach.

Ellen A. Kanarek. Past Forum Chair 

Responsibility Center Mgmt., continued from page 2

the unit to discourage units from moving to part-time or non-tenure-system faculty. The remaining GRF (85%) is distributed to units at the discretion of the provost, with input on priorities from a faculty budget committee. This "unearned" GRF represents the subsidy needed by each college and gives the Provost the flexibility to allow some units to grow at different paces.

The other side of the coin is the distribution of administrative costs to the academic units. The cost of operating each "service unit" (= administrative unit) is distributed to all units based on a factor unique to that service unit. For example, the cost of our Dean of Students Office is distributed based on the number of students enrolled, while the cost of Operations & Maintenance is distributed based on square footage of space controlled by the unit. Computing the total cost of each service unit and distributing that cost to the academic units requires our office to set up and solve a system of simultaneous equations (for more detail, see a PowerPoint presentation at www.dmi.uiuc.edu/bdgreg/adbasis). We have found that this model is extremely sensitive to small swings in some of the factors, especially space. Colleges opening new buildings, for example, must find hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay for the maintenance of those buildings.


Our college administrators are now acutely aware of the cost of doing business. Even the critics of the new budget model admit that everyone involved now has a clearer understanding of the costs and benefits of each decision. This new system, so dependent on accurate and timely data to feed all the formulas, has placed serious demands on our IR office; but we, in turn, enjoy being such an integral part of the decision-making process on our campus. 

AIR Annual Forum News

Illinois Presenters

IAIR will be well-represented at this year's AIR Annual Forum in Long Beach. Illinois researchers will be participating in over 25 sessions, meetings, and presentations. (See page 4 for a listing of sessions featuring Illinois speakers.) These include the Honorable Jim Edgar, who will appear in a plenary session on Tuesday.

IAIR Confab at AIR Long Beach

As in past years, we are planning an informal social gathering for IAIR members. It is scheduled for Tuesday evening, June 5th. Those who have attended in the past will tell you that the gathering is an excellent opportunity to mix with Illinois colleagues over free appetizers and drinks. As chief scout, Carol Livingstone will find a location. She'll share the details (as in when and where) at the IAIR AM meeting on Monday morning. 

Illinois Presenters at the 2001 AIR Forum in Long Beach

Session	Illinois Member	Institution
25-318	Eugene Atkin	Oakton Community College
29-209		
32-211		
29-804	Guy Aylward	Illinois Central College
13-931	Trudy Bers	Oakton Community College
23-227		
25-318		
29-209		
32-211		
70-030		
25-404		
25-404	Julie Casey	DePaul University
25-404	Tod Chmielewski	DePaul University
79-012	Jim Edgar	U of I Inst. of Gov't. & Pub. Affs
18-606	Joseph Filkins	DePaul University
25-318	Pamela Galowich	Oakton Community College
29-209		
32-211		
21-013	Heather Haberaecker	Northwestern Univ. Med. School
30-095	William Hayward	Northwestern University
16-274	Dan House	Northern Illinois University
18-150		
29-718		

Session	Illinois Member	Institution
29-718	Richard Hurst	Loyola University of Chicago
26-914	George Johnston	Parkland College
23-203	Edward Keeley	DeVry Institute of Technology
18-606	Laura Kehoe	DePaul University
13-405	Rhonda Kline	Western Illinois University
26-914	Sharon Kristovich	Parkland College
10-S26	Carol Livingstone	U. of I. at Urbana-Champaign
26-914		
18-606	Gerald McLaughlin	DePaul University
23-609		
25-404		
33-135		
68-015		
13-932	Virginia McMillan	Illinois Community College Board
28-122	Samir Miari	Chicago State University
30-095	Elizabeth Reis	Moraine Valley Community College
29-718	Robin Rothamer	Northern Illinois University
29-718	Ping-Sheng Tsui	Loyola University of Chicago
18-150	Beiling Xiao	Northern Illinois University
36-155		

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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