

CONTINUANCE

Knowledge and Understanding Passing from Generation to Generation

Fall 2010/Winter 2011

Vol. 25 Nos. 1 & 2



Generations Serving Generations

The Interdependence of Generations Report

Generations Serving Generations

Promoting the Civic Engagement of Older Adults

Generations Serving Generations was founded in 2008 in cooperation with the National Governors Association Center on Best Practices. Illinois was one of 14 states selected to participate in the project that was designed to improve the health and lives of older Americans and increase their involvement in service, learning, and work. The core team has championed the civic engagement of older adults as a way to boost leadership in communities and tap the great resource of older Illinoisans.

Generations Serving Generations embraces all generations, each with its unique history, view of authority, use of technology, and specific historical events that shaped their lives. Though we are all different, whether Gen X, Gen Y, Boomers or the Oldest Generation, we need one another. We are interdependent.



Core Team for Generations Serving Generations

Top photo from the the Summit on Aging and Education, September 20, 2010.
L to R: Ted Gibbs, executive director, Serve Illinois Commission, Representing Governor Pat Quinn; Jo Anderson, Senior Advisor, U.S. Dept. of Education, representing Secretary Arne Duncan; Marilyn Hennessy, trustee, Retirement Research Foundation; Robert Mees, representing the Illinois Community College Council of Presidents and president, John A. Logan College; NGA project director: Jane Angelis, director, Intergenerational Initiative, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; NGA Team Leader Charles D. Johnson, director, Illinois Department on Aging; Peggy Luce, vice president, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce; Joyce Gallagher, director, Chicago Division on Aging; Michael O'Donnell, executive director, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging and liaison, Illinois Association of AAA; and John Hosteny, Illinois director, Corporation for National and Community Service

Lower Photos: - Other members of the Policy Academy: L to R: John Sirek, director, Citizenship, McCormick Foundation; Bernarda Wong, president, Chinese American Service League; David Fields, board member, Illinois State Board of Education; Edward Maloney, chair, Senate Higher Education Committee; and Bob Gallo, state director, AARP



Interdependence of Generations: A Resolution from the Illinois Senate

Resolved: It is in the interest of the citizens of this State to develop Illinois' growing retiree population as a resource for mobilizing citizens of all ages and addressing community needs across generations.

Senate Resolution 115

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❖ Founded in 1987 with funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education ❖

Generations Serving Generations

The Beginnings



Senate President John Cullerton and Minority Leader Christine Radogno share ideas at the podium of the Illinois Senate chamber.

On May 11, 2009 Senate President John Cullerton and Leader Christine Radogno sponsored a Gathering in the Senate to promote the Civic Engagement of Older Adults. Over 200 participants representing four generations discussed the changing image of retirement and how Illinoisans of all generations envision a state where the talents of older generations aren't left on the sidelines. The participants set two goals: First to celebrate the contributions of older adults, and second, to expand the civic engagement of all Illinoisans. It was after the May 11 meeting that one of the participants said, "this project has legs."

From Senate President John J. Cullerton:

"The foundation of our democracy is civic dialogue. The future for our democracy is generations joining together to solve community problems. We are all challenged to foster creative thinking and new approaches during these difficult times: convening local citizens is the beginning of greater civic involvement for all ages.

From Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno

"If we are to address the great challenges in Illinois in a meaningful way, it will take the cooperation of all our citizens. Our older generations have so much to offer. Partnerships with the youth of today and bringing all the generations together, is key to our success in Illinois.

Building Consensus and Understanding other Generations

There are many humorous moments when generations share their perceptions on social customs, like dating, the use of technology, or view of authority. The six generations of Americans are very different, and yet they find many similarities. When older and younger generations compare historical events in their lives and share stories about childhood memories, a new awareness is born. When generations come to the table to take on the same goals, the talents are complementary, the enthusiasm is contagious, and the outcomes are sensational.

Six Generations of Americans

Oldest Generation: Born before 1922

Veterans: Born 1922-1945

Boomers: Born 1946-1964

Generation X: Born 1965-1980

Generation Y: Born 1981-2000

Generation Z: Born 2000 - present

Partnerships and Building Consensus

Historic Meeting Connects Higher Education's Public Agenda and Aging's Maturing of Illinois



L to R: George W. Reid, executive director, Illinois Board of Higher Education and Charles Johnson, director, Illinois Department on Aging discuss how their agencies can work together.

Charles Johnson, director, Illinois Department on Aging and George W. Reid, executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education met on February 18, 2011 to discuss issues related to education and aging that will have an impact on all Illinoisans. They agreed that their agencies must work together to address the great economic challenges throughout Illinois.

Director Johnson said "Older adults are a resource: they are capable of giving back to communities and have great talents to share with students." Dr. Reid discussed the Public Agenda and welcomed the talents of older adults who can contribute to Illinois becoming the state with the highest graduation rate.

"Higher Education is for a lifetime and the Public Agenda is the future of Illinois," said Reid. "The Agenda will present opportunities for people to take new roles that will increase graduation rates and strengthen our educational system."

Johnson described the Maturing of Illinois, which will help communities prepare for an increase of 70% of those 60 and older over the next twenty years.

The Maturing of Illinois: Getting Communities on Track for an Aging Population

The number of persons 60 years of age and older in the state of Illinois is expected to increase from 2 million today to over 3.6 million by the year 2030. By 2030, one in every five Illinoisans will be 60 or older. To respond to this challenge, the thirteen Area Agencies on Aging in partnership with the Illinois Department on Aging are pursuing a statewide initiative to promote livable communities.

A livable community addresses six areas: housing, transportation, accessibility, health and support services, opportunities for work, volunteering, and learning, and encourages participation in civic, cultural, social and recreational activities. Within each of these six areas, a livable community strives to maximize people's independence, assure safety and security, promote inclusiveness, and provide choice.

The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success

The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success is a plan for strengthening the education system. Four of the action steps include the following: First, attention will highlight increasing readiness for college. Readiness begins with early education and continues throughout the transitions from one level to the next, often called the pipeline. Second, the Agenda will focus on college completion and will challenge the educational system in Illinois to help students succeed. Third, the agenda will garner support for performance funding that will add incentives for student success. Last, the Agenda will provide information about the education system in Illinois and a P-20 (preschool through college) longitudinal data system, that is vital for sound policy making and accountability. The global goals for the Public Agenda are to increase educational attainment, ensure college affordability, address workforce needs and enhance economic growth. For additional information, www.1illinois.org

Education Initiatives for the Future

Illinois Delegation to Attend Complete College America Event

Complete College America has invited Illinois to bring a state team to the Spring, 2011 Completion Academy to discuss and design specific actions — legislative or administrative, statewide or campus specific—focused on strategies to reach the college completion goal of 60% of Illinoisans (ages 24-64) with a postsecondary degree or credential of value by 2025.

Complete College America will provide customized technical assistance in the areas of performance funding, remediation reform, reducing time-to-degree, and changing structures to meet the needs of today's students.

The delegation includes Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon; Sen. Ed Maloney, Chair, Senate Higher Education Committee; Rep. Bob Pritchard, Education Caucus co-chair and Minority Spokesperson on House Higher Education Committee Education; Chancellor Rita Cheng, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; President Jerry Weber, College of Lake County; Jeff Mays, President of Illinois Business Roundtable; George W. Reid, Illinois Board of Higher Education executive director; Andy Davis, Illinois Student Assistance Commission executive director; Elaine Johnson, Illinois Community College Board vice-president for academic affairs, and Candace Mueller,

Illinois Board of Higher Education external relations and State Liaison to Complete College America.

Comments from members of the Complete College America regarding older generations:

"As one generation graduates, another retires. The experiences gained through a life of work or community service are a natural resource to the incoming generation that can not be measured and must not go untapped."

Jeff Mays, President
Illinois Business Roundtable

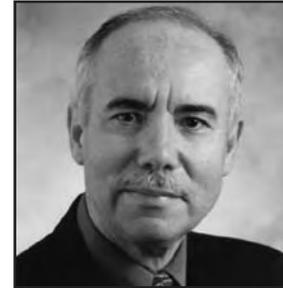
"By connecting generations, we create partnerships that allow us to learn and grow. Education is transformational, and by bringing people of all ages together to share their expertise and talents, we can effect positive and lasting change in our communities."

Rita Cheng, Chancellor
Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale

"When senior volunteers apply their wisdom and energy to such projects as reducing the school drop-out rates and improving wellness, our whole community benefits." Jerry Weber, President
College of Lake County, Grayslake

"Retirees are valuable resources for P-20 education because they have experienced transitions throughout their lives and understand perseverance."
Senator Ed. Maloney, Chair
Senate Higher Education Com.

Education for Our Future: First Report for the Illinois P-20 Council



Miguel del Valle
Chairman, P-20 Council

The P-20 Council Report includes ten recommendations for improvement at all levels of Illinois education, from birth through adulthood, to create a seamless system of quality education and support. The P-20 Council recommends that state agencies, educational institutions, and community partners work together.
www2.illinois.gov/p20council/

Congratulations to Mike Baumgartner, the new Vice President of Finance and Special Projects for Complete College America. Baumgartner was the executive deputy of planning and budgeting for the Illinois Board of Higher Education and a member of the Advisory Team for Generations Serving Generations.
Best wishes!

Complete College America (CCA):
www.completecollege.org/

Illinois Alliance page for CCA:
www.completecollege.org/docs/Illinois.pdf

Lifelong Learning Coalition

At the turn of the 20th century, approximately 4 percent of the United States population was over age sixty-five. Today, that percentage has climbed to 13 percent, and by 2030 is projected to be 20 percent. Clearly, the number of older students will increase dramatically. How will we prepare? The Lifelong Learning Coalition has an answer.

Lifelong is a coalition of community colleges and universities that provide learning opportunities for those 50+. The group was founded in 1989 by the Illinois Community College Board and formalized in 1992 through funding from the Retirement Research Foundation. Carol Davis, chair of the Coalition says, "The Lifelong Coalition seeks to actively address the challenges and initiatives outlined in *The Maturing of Illinois Report* in the areas of lifelong education, civic engagement, work, economic development, and recreation."



Officers and Sponsors for 2011-2013: L to R Top: Chair: Carol Davis, Spoon River College, Canton; Vice-Chair, Douglas Brauer, Richland, Community College, Decatur, Former Chair: Anita Revelle, Illinois State University, Normal; At Large-South: Julia Schroeder, Vice President for Academic Affairs, John A. Logan College; Cheryl Brunsmann, Director Outreach, SIU Edwardsville; At Large Central: Jon Neidy, Associate Director, Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute, Bradley University, Peoria; Bottom L to R: At Large-Central: Janna Overstreet, director of Continuing Education, Eastern Illinois University; At Large-North: Tammy Lewis, Director Institute of Lifelong Learning, Rock Valley College, Rockford; At Large Chicago Suburbs: Julie DeLong, director Prairie State College, Chicago Heights; At Large-Chicago: John Hader, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs, Harold Washington College. Sponsors: Jennifer Foster, Director Adult Education, Illinois Community College Board and Jane Angelis, director, Intergenerational Initiative, SIU School of Law.

Members of the Lifelong Learning Coalition

Benedictine University
Black Hawk College
Bradley University
Chicago State University
City Colleges of Chicago
College of Lake County
College of DuPage
Danville Area College
DePaul University
Elgin Community College
Eastern Illinois University
Frontier Community College
Governors State University
Harold Washington College
Harper College
Heartland Community College
Highland Community College
Illinois Valley Community College

Kaskaskia College
Illinois Central College
Illinois State University
John A. Logan College
Joliet Junior College
Kaskaskia College
Kankakee Community College
Kishwaukee College
Lakeland Community College
Lewis and Clark College
Lincoln Land Community College
McHenry County College
Moraine Valley Community College
National Louis University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Oakton Community College
Parkland College

Prairie State College
Rend Lake College
Richland Community College
Rock Valley College
Roosevelt University
Carl Sandburg College
Sauk Valley Community College
Shawnee Community College
Southeastern Illinois College
Southwestern Illinois College
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Spoon River College
Triton College
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Waubonsee Community College
John Wood Community College
Western Illinois University
Wright Community College

Celebrating the Year of the Engaged Older Adult

1. Gov. Pat Quinn Proclaims 2010 as the Year of the Engaged Older Adult

102 Counties Participated in the Celebration of the Civic Engagement of Older Adults

In December 2009, Governor Pat Quinn launched a a year-long campaign that encouraged older adults to engage in community activities. Generations Serving Generations and the Year of the Engaged Older Adult was a call to action for individuals and families to enrich community life. The announcement was made during the opening session of the annual Governor’s Conference on Aging, held on December 10 in Chicago.



“This program will expand our efforts to strengthen communities across Illinois,” said Governor Quinn. “The initiative will help increase the number of seniors who participate in volunteer activities in Illinois, allowing them to contribute their talents and expertise to benefit their communities.”

Counties throughout Illinois felt the spirit of Generations Serving Generations. Older adults participated in programs and projects related to health, education, caregiving, community building, economic development and more. Clearly there is a vast resource in the older generation just waiting to be tapped.



2. Interdependence of Generations Resolution Passed



On April 22, 2010, the Illinois Senate unanimously passed the Interdependence of Generations Task Force, sponsored by Senator Ed Maloney.

The purpose is to “study and make recommendations regarding the creative ways that education (schools, community colleges, and universities) and aging (retiree organizations, organizations that serve older adults, and older adults themselves) can work together to address the challenges of education, tap the resources of older adults and students to benefit communities, and promote healthy lifestyles for all ages.”

Further, the “Task Force on the Interdependence of Generations will engage Illinois citizens in hearings regarding the ways that generations can work together as participants, planners, and organizers of systems that can mobilize talents across generations.”

3. Summit on Aging and Education



The purpose is to study and make recommendations regarding the creative ways that education (schools, community colleges, and universities) and aging (retiree organizations, organizations that serve older adults, and older adults themselves) can work together to address the challenges of education, tap the resources of older adults and students to benefit communities, and promote healthy lifestyles for all ages.

On September 20, 2010, leaders from aging and education joined with 120 Illinoisans of all ages in the first Illinois Summit on Aging and Education. The dialogue centered around service, lifelong learning and wellness and sparked a model of communication and connections between generations and the organizations that serve them.



In preparation for the First Illinois Summit on Aging and Education, Christopher Koch, Illinois Superintendent of Education (left) and Charles Johnson, director of the Illinois Department on Aging (right) host a planning meeting. Center- L to R: John Hosteny, Illinois director of the Corporation for National and Community Service and Ted Gibbs, CEO, of the Serve Illinois Commission, representing Governor Pat Quinn

Rather than compete for resources, leaders from aging, education and service talked about how they could join forces in addressing common goals. Peggy Luce, Vice President, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and the Summit chair said, "This is extraordinary to have the leaders of education and aging working together for the benefit of all ages." Charles Johnson, director of the Illinois Department on Aging, called the Summit, "Historic – with the potential for developing many cross-generational partnerships." State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch called the summit a "bridge across generations to support student achievement and lifelong healthy habits."

Participants shared their ideas on addressing the challenges of dropouts, wellness and lifelong learning in the morning sessions. In the afternoon they brought action into the mix, by discussing the many ways that service makes an impact, such as involving dropouts in service experiences, sharing technology skills, and organizing health campaigns for elders.

Summit Leaders

Aging

- Charles Johnson, Illinois Department on Aging
- Michael O'Donnell, Illinois Association of AAA
- Joyce Gallagher, Chicago Division on Aging

Business

- Peggy Luce, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Community Colleges

- Geoff Obrzut, Illinois Community College Board
- Robert Mees, Council of Community College Presidents

Elementary and Secondary Education

- Christopher Koch, State Superintendent
- Jason Leahy, Illinois Principals Association
- Dave Fields, Board Member, Illinois State Board of Education
- Debra Strauss, Illinois PTA

Higher Education

- Senator Ed Malony, Senate Higher Education Committee

Intergenerational

- Jane Angelis, SIU School of Law

P-20 Education

- Jo Anderson, U.S. Dept. of Education
- Julie Smith, Governor's Senior Advisor on Education

Service

- Ted Gibbs, Serve Illinois Commission
- John Hosteny, Corporation for National Service
- Mike Mangan, Learn and Serve
- Kathy Engelken, Illinois Campus Compact

4. Local Discussions Find Solutions through Collaboration

Increasing Graduation Rates and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles



WHEREAS, Two factors will have a significant impact on the Illinois economy and predict future prosperity, the first is the cost of health care, particularly for older Illinoisans, the second is the educational level of the working population; a statewide effort to connect aging and education has implications for benefits to every community and for policy throughout the State; schools have resources and facilities to help with promotion; and older adults have great potential to help dropouts and students who are our future workforce.

In November and December 2010, 20 Local Discussions were hosted by community college presidents and education leaders. They gathered good ideas and best practices from students, retirees and an assortment of people who are committed to increasing graduation rates and wellness. This budding grassroots movement brought focus to the unique problems caused by school dropouts and health concerns.



The Southwestern Illinois College Local Discussion in Belleville featured local leaders of education, aging and service in a comprehensive discussion about increasing graduation rates and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Read the Stories and Ideas from the Local Discussions on Aging and Education

- Spoon River College, Canton 10
- College of Lake County, Grayslake 11
- Prairie State College
Chicago Heights 12
- Dupage Regional Office of Education
Lombard 13
- Danville Area Community College 14
- John Wood Community College
Quincy 15
- Black Hawk College
Quad Cities Metro, Moline 16
- Illinois Central College, Peoria 17
- Heartland Community College
Normal 18
- Morton College, Cicero 19
- John A. Logan College, Carterville 20
- Southeastern Illinois College
Harrisburg 21
- Shawnee Community College
Ullin 22
- Southwestern Illinois College
Belleville 23
- Harold Washington College
Chicago 24
- East St. Louis Community College
Center 25
- Kaskaskia College, Centralia 26
- Harper College, Palatine 27
- South Suburban College
South Holland 28
- Highland Community College
Freeport 29



The Task Force on the Interdependence of Generations will engage Illinois citizens in hearings regarding the ways that generations can work together as participants, planners, and organizers of systems that can mobilize talents across generations.

In fulfillment of the Senate Resolution, community college presidents and education leaders invited individuals representing retirees, education at all levels, service programs, and communities to begin a dialogue on how they could share resources and mobilize the resources of all generations. In a time of economic pull back, the citizens of Illinois raised their voices in 20 communities saying, “We can do a better job of working together, sharing resources among generations, and tapping the skills and talents of all Illinoisans.” Read the stories in the following 20 pages--they are gems.

Many of the Local Discussions reported on their efforts to work together, their partnerships and how they could strengthen them. Others discovered that they had potential for developing new partnerships around some aspect of increasing graduation rates and wellness. The economic climate is ideal for giving organizations a greater incentive to collaborate and identify ways that service can empower education and older Americans. One of the goals of the Summit was to develop stronger ties between aging, education and service and this was one of the great successes of the Local Discussions.

Coming Events

April 1 - November 1, 2011: Aging is an Asset for Illinois

Preliminary Sponsors: Generations Serving Generations and Gerontology Programs in Illinois

- Purpose: Identify the ways that those 50+ contribute to communities and set action steps on engaging older adults in learning, service and work.

Location: Discussions and events will be held throughout Illinois.

Sept. 26, 2011: Second Summit on Aging, Education & Service and Celebration of Intergenerational Programs

- Connecting Higher Education’s Public Agenda with Aging’s The Maturing of Illinois Report
- Exploring how service promotes student success
- Sharing evidence-based practices that connect generations
- Convening a P-20 Forum on Intergenerational Service
- Preliminary Sponsors: Generations Serving Generations and the three Education Boards - In Normal, Illinois

For information, www.solit.siu.edu/GenServeGen



President Robert E. Ritschel

November 12 - Canton

Carol Davis, Vice President of Community Outreach

Success Story

A common response from students often considered at-risk is “We are considered problems.” The Retirees Leading Academy, a model for involving older adults, put that theory to rest when they partnered with students at Fulton-Schuyler Regional Office of Education’s Alternative High School. Sally Pletz, a retired travel agent, and Barb Luthy, a retired teacher, jumped at the opportunity to work with youth at the alternative school.

They started a book club with the students, which included several sessions of reading and discussing an important piece of literature. The book club emerged out of the Retirees *Big Read* community program and immediately became popular with the students. As a result, they expanded the club to include a novel each fall and spring. The students also helped institute a Games Day so they could teach video games to the retirees. In turn the retirees shared some of their favorite board games. The students and the retirees spend quality time discussing, reading,

Spoon River College

Retirees and “at-risk” students start book club to stimulate reading for all ages.

sharing, and playing together. There is no doubt that the retirees have great respect for the students and value their talents. The students say that they have a new set of caring adults in their lives.

The Retirees Leading model proposes a new tradition in retirement that is organized by community colleges and universities. Retirees attend class to learn about how their community or city works, select projects in cooperation with schools and the community, and then enlist others to participate. In other words, “just ask.”

Retirees Leading, also known as the Spoon River Model started in 2005 with funding by the Retirement Research Foundation now has 70 graduates leading community projects and 300 participating in those projects. The program started with seven retirees who agreed to try something new even though it required a seven-week commitment of one morning each week. They learned about themselves, about other generations, and about their community. Upon graduation, these seven participants became the core of the Spoon River College Retirees Leading Academy. One graduate in particular is now making a significant impact in our community. Phil Fleming was selected as the Emergency Services Disaster Agency Director for the City of Canton and now leads a staff of volunteers in training, weather-spotting/reporting, and

disaster relief exercises. Carol Davis noted, “In his retirement, Phil is keeping all of us a little safer and a little wiser. Another project involves Seniors at VIT High School who may enroll in an elective Community Service class for credit. This class provides many benefits. Students receive instruction and then actively participate in a community service project. The students connect to members of the community, learn the values associated with service, and receive credit toward graduation requirements. Members of the community have the opportunity to work with the high school youth and collaborate on community-betterment projects.

Ideas and Action

Positive discussion resulted in several recommendations:

- Link service to educational incentives – graduation credit is given; state or local scholarships or awards available.
- Link to community – creation of a network of volunteer/community service opportunities that educators can use to “plug” students into appropriate or relevant projects.
- Link to seniors – where appropriate establish a one-on-one connection between an older adult and a high school student to collaborate on a project OR match a student with an older adult who would be the recipient of a community service project. (One suggestion was to create a protected website like Match.com.)

College of Lake County

Service-learning experiences support leadership and academic success

November 20 - Grayslake

Laura Rovang, Director, Discovery:
A Program for Adult Learners with
a Young Attitude

Success Story

How are responsible citizens created and instilled with a sense of civic responsibility and volunteerism? The North Shore School District 112 has been doing that for the last nine years by utilizing "Project Citizen," a free national program from the Center for Civic Education. The program is problem-based and focuses on a public policy issue students identify as one to explore and solve. Adult community volunteers with expertise in the identified area participate with students to help them think through the problem and possible solutions. The concluding exercise is a simulated legislative hearing with older adults serving as mentors and judges. The goal of the program is to engage students in becoming active volunteers serving their community.

Cheryl Levi, Service Learning Liaison for NSSD112, says that she frequently hears from parents whose children are involved in volunteer service projects. This intergenerational program pairs 50+ adult tutors and mentors with school children Grades 4-12 and produces an environment of enthusiastic learning and an opportunity for both groups to apply knowledge and social skills to achieve an outcome of informed and empowered future leaders.

The local discussion at the College of Lake County brought together participants from service organizations, K-12 educational institutions, the community college, retiree groups and community programs. It was a lively discussion as programs and responsibilities were shared. Those attending were amazed at the number of programs addressing retention and wellness issues already in place.

Ideas and Action

- Consider a larger forum for more organizations to meet in a similar exercise (perhaps a half-day focusing on retention and volunteerism)
- Identify Best Practices in and out of Illinois. What is working? Not working? Who is doing it? How is it being assessed? Is it appropriate and achievable? Suggestions for programs to research as providers or models include Center for Civic Education ("Project Citizen" and "We, the People" programs); Volunteer Center of Northeast Suburban Chicago (training program and volunteer network); and Learn and Serve America grants for school districts (funding for school-based Service Learning projects)
- Request an assessment from the Regional Superintendent's Office of Lake County needs, including number of dropouts, their location, ages and grades.
- Develop community collaboration (e.g. open schools as sites for programs, grants through local libraries, convert dormant bookmobiles



President Jerry Weber

"Deeply connected to the communities we serve, community colleges have a history of bringing people together to develop creative solutions to local problems. We are excited to lend our expertise in working with community groups, educators and employers to the Generations Serving Generations project. When senior volunteers apply their wisdom and energy to such projects as reducing the school drop-out rates and improving wellness, our whole community benefits. "

for mobile job centers, pool funding and resources, develop coalitions between senior centers, libraries, AARP, Extension service, and park districts)

- Explore ways to reduce obstacles to volunteerism such as cost of background checks, lack of funding, territorial attitudes, union imposed restrictions and other political obstacles.
- Identify assessment tools to evaluate programs for appropriateness and effectiveness
- Communicate what we have learned to our organizations
- Publicize websites for volunteer information and opportunities, such as United Way's list of social services already developed and available. Communicate needs to the public (e.g. newspaper community page).



President Eric Radtke

"I was pleased we could report on a broad range of programs we are already doing on campus and also for the overwhelming support from the community. I feel we are poised to move forward with many of the great ideas generated from the discussions. Prairie State College does, and will continue to, play an active role in offering programs for the older adult."

November 10 - Chicago Heights

Julie DeLong, Coordinator of Continuing Professional Education

Success Stories

Eugene Dumas, a retired Chicago Public Schools Principal, told a story about having lunch with a group of male college students. They talk about school, sports, and a variety of topics, and Dumas asks them probing questions related to their personal goals and expectations for the future. These discussions encourage the students to think about the advantages of a college education in light of greater employment opportunities. "Young people today do not often receive encouragement to succeed in college," said Dumas, and he fulfills that need during the informal lunch-time chats. As a result, Mr. Dumas has seen students seek him out to inform him that they are attending class regularly

Prairie State College

Black males discuss the importance of education with a retired mentor.

and are working toward the goal of graduation.

The Kids Who Care Program is a youth volunteer service program that includes students K through college, families and community groups. A grocery shopping service helps senior citizens and those who are disabled. They also make treats for meals on wheels recipients, and participants in monthly game nights at senior residences.

A program called Positive Behavior Interventions and Support features "Be Bucks." On every Friday, each classroom allows the students with Be Bucks to take five minutes and walk to the Be Buck Store, housed in the building. The items in the store include pencils, calculators, toy watches, flash lights and more. The students earn Be Bucks for actions, such as leadership. Many of the minor behavioral issues have subsided because the students want to earn the Be Bucks.

Discussion

Upon the conclusion of the panel presentation, attendees broke into three sub-groups consisting of education, senior services and civic engagement. The result of the discussion was that there are numerous individual organizations that offer programs that address dropouts and promote healthy lifestyles for all ages. One of the participants said, "I'm honored to

have been a part of this event."

Another program that helps promote graduate rates is the Adult Education Program, which serves a diverse population of adult learners who are both high school and non-high school graduates to teach basic skills needed to function effectively as a family member, employee, and citizen. This is an intergenerational program where mature adults aged 55+ work with students ages 25 – 32.

Ideas and Action

The following recommendations for simple doable objectives for ongoing action were identified:

1. Strengthening connections through the development of a combined and categorized resource book which includes resources available within the community for those in education, services and volunteering.
2. Encourage high school students to be engaged in both educational and extra-curricular / co-curricular activities all four years of high school to be better prepared for college.
3. Within current volunteer programs, offer opportunities for volunteers to upgrade their basic computer literacy skills through training.
4. Work with outside agencies such as Professional Women's Network to offer mentoring programs to young students to provide first-hand experience with career choices.

DuPage Regional Office of Education

Older mentor helps student to change from a troubled youth to one leading a coat drive for his community.

November 15 - Lombard
Olga Rammer, Director,
Administrative Services

Success Stories

Retiree from FBI finds fulfilment and helps a student find his way

A retired FBI agent became a mentor for a young student who was placed in the Safe Schools program for possession of a weapon. This very serious-minded ex-FBI agent connected well with the student, who was very troubled, and on the verge of failure. With involvement of the mentor, the student began to improve his grades and he began to ask his teachers what he could do to assist in school activities. Soon he was involved in service when he formed a coat drive at Christmas. When asked what brought about the change, the student said that he had received a birthday card from his mentor, and he realized that someone cared about him, and that he did indeed matter.

Discussion

Five students were participants in our summit. They all added considerable information and perspectives about high school dropouts and healthy lifestyles. The students talked about their roles as Student ambassadors; organizing school clubs and participating as technology experts working with seniors. They all felt that the cardiovascular

health programs and healthier food choices should be available to all students.

The DuPage County Health Department FORWARD Initiative (Fighting Obesity Reaching Healthy Weight Among Residents of DuPage) will move ahead in designing a program in consultation with these students that will connect seniors with our school youth on proper nutrition and exercise. One student, when asked why she had given up an entire evening to participate in the Generations Serving Generations Summit and continue to be involved, replied that it was her responsibility to make her community a better place to live and work.

Ideas and Action

- High school and middle school students can host Technology workshops for area seniors.
- Living oral histories can be captured by students of seniors from multi-generations, capturing first-hand stories for future study.
- Retired seniors can become work-out partners with younger students, proving support and encouragement while both obtain health benefits.
- High school athletic facilities can be opened to area residents during times of low-use.
- High school service clubs can plan special events, such as Senior Citizen Proms, holiday meals, special recep-



Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools.

“As our population ages, we will need to tap into their knowledge and strengths as well as support their health and well-being. Mobilizing all generations to address critical economic and health issues in new ways can only have a positive impact on our society and our nation.”

tions and invitations to high school plays and music events.

- High school students can provide ongoing support to area citizens through yard upkeep, assistance on garbage days, assorted other outside activities.
- Seniors can become involved in formal mentorship programs with schools, “Adopt a Grandparent” programs, or other collaborative events to assist struggling students with homework, job coaching, reading, or simply providing support.
- Intergenerational cooking classes can be hosted at schools, providing for the opportunity to transfer recipes through generations, and for students to share new cooking techniques and nutritional information.
- Seniors can volunteer to serve as ongoing academic support for schools, working in resource centers and classrooms.



President Alice Marie Jacobs

“From the discussions, it is evident that many positive strategies are taking place in our community to address the drop-out rate as well as to promote healthy lifestyles. Our challenge as a College will be to continue to facilitate what is occurring so that the quality of life in our community improves.”

December 2 - Danville

Laura Hensgen, Coordinator, Community Education

Success Story

Shawn, a local high school student, was about to give up on school when he heard about DACC’s Middle College program. He didn’t have much drive and was just going through the daily motions of his life. Shawn often said that he was just not fit for the high school setting, and he often thought of dropping out. At the beginning of his senior year Shawn opted for the Middle College program. He was able to enroll in college level courses which allowed him to obtain high school and college credit. Shawn thrived in a more mature setting. According to his counselor, Shawn needed very little supervision. He was responsible and by the time he graduated in December 2010 he was more confident and

Danville Area Community College

Information is a challenge: There are many resources but people don’t know about them.

successfully completing 22 credits. He has since moved to Alaska to be with family. He has enrolled in college for the spring 2011 semester.

The College Express program has a goal to increase the graduation rate by 25 students annually. This is often a better option for a student who gets pregnant, struggles in the school setting, doesn’t fit in with their peers, or feels inferior. The College Express program allows high school students to obtain vocational credit.

Healthy Lifestyles

Provena United Samaritans Center in Danville uses the arts to communicate healthy lifestyle choices among youth through the *I Sing the Body Electric* program. The mission is to provide a supportive framework where youth in Vermilion County may investigate and communicate healthy lifestyle choices to each other and to the community through the arts. This program includes three phases. The first phase, which began in 2008, surveyed area students asking them to select the top five health risks that they face. The results were: alcohol (mainly drinking and driving), sexual behavior, body image, drug use, and depression and suicide.

In the second phase, high school youth who choose to participate are given mini-grants to develop healthy lifestyle messages using the arts. The projects can use

a number of arts media: music, creative writing, poetry, theatre, visual arts, video, and sculpture. These art projects will be showcased at year’s end at an Arts & Health Festival. The third phase includes a county-wide tour of the students’ works. Sites include schools, businesses and community events.

Teaching kids at an early age the importance of volunteering may directly impact how much they serve the community in their future. This would also help the community realize its needs.

Ideas and Action

After attending the local discussion there was talk about how much Vermilion County has to offer and how little people know about what goes on. In an attempt to make people aware there was talk about creating a webpage listing all the opportunities available to volunteers.

- Suggestions that include the fact that seniors will often volunteer when asked or if they are aware of the opportunities.
- Attempts to educate the public may include: newspaper articles, church groups, classroom setting, and social media.
- Other ideas included starting a program in the elementary schools that focus on volunteering.

John Wood Community College

Success is often measured in small steps says a STEM mentor.

November 23 - Quincy

Carla Gosney, Director, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Success Stories

Amy, a third-grade student had help in reading and other subjects from her mentor, Dr. Michael Anderson, a retired physician. He worked with Amy from the time she was in third grade through high school. As a result, Amy completed high school and also graduated from John Wood Community College and is now completing college at a four-year institution. Knowing the importance of the mentoring program to her success, Amy herself became a mentor for a grade school student.

As a retired manager and computer expert, Ken Heinze knows the importance of math in the workplace. Ken has been tutoring individual students since 2003 at John Wood Community College's Adult Ed and Literacy program. This year he felt he could be more effective in a classroom setting, working with several students at a time. He began planning lessons, exercises, and homework to encourage and motivate the students to complete their GED. This has been a learning experience for Ken as well as the students. He has discovered that success is often measured in small steps. Through his continued encouragement, these

small steps for his students will result in large opportunities in the future.

Approximately 30 Adams County RSVP volunteers are actively involved in the Child-Family Mentor Program at the Quincy Public Schools. These volunteers work with one or two students for an hour each week to assist with school work and to be a mentor to the students. The RSVP Volunteers often remark that they receive more than they give. The involvement with students is win/win, volunteers stay active and students improve their reading and math.

The United Way of Adams County gives special funding consideration to programs that emphasize education, health and income because of the problems associated with them. The U of I Extension and United Way have partnered to tackle obesity in Quincy. Since May 2009, the ABC Health Leadership Delegation has become the source for community data about health status and collaborative efforts to improve obesity rates in Adams County. ABC and its Health Leadership Delegation are committed to making a positive impact on the health status of individuals in Adams County, specifically concerning overweight and obesity. Utilizing the active health leadership delegation structure, ABC will: collect and



President Thomas Klinkar

"John Wood Community College is honored to be an enabler in helping students succeed. At John Wood Community College, we are one team, bringing together many resources to increase our student college graduation rates and improve the quality of life within the communities we serve."

analyze program data, educate the community about the obesity issue, and use data to generate and align community resources with effective program strategies. This is done in order to decrease childhood obesity in Adams County by 25% by the year 2020 (from 41% in 2009 to 31%). When these strategies are combined and supported by community members, Adams County will see a reduction in obesity rates and obesity-related costs.

Ideas and Action

- Work with the Kroc Center to promote tutoring and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- Continue connecting retirees and students who need additional support to remain in school or return to school.
- As a result of links established at the local discussion, the Education Department of John Wood will have additional placement sites for student interns.



President Gene Gardner

“It has long been said that with age comes wisdom. I hear this notion expressed in a variety of ways by students in the halls and lounges at Black Hawk College. Conversely, young people often develop their own life views as a result of their experiences, particularly from the various electronic gadgetry that they have grown up with. Consequently, communication between the generations becomes a value adding experience to both the young and the not so young. An important part of our future depends on mutual understanding between the generations.”

December 2 - Moline

Charlet Key, Coordinator, Special Events

Success Stories

A young man at the Moline Center was encouraged to participate in the homework assistance program. Little by little his grades improved, and he developed more confidence in his abilities. He began to interact with staff and made suggestions for additional activities. With help from teachers and mentors, the young man completed high school, enrolled at the community college, and when a staff position at the

Black Hawk College

An important part of our future depends on mutual understanding between generations

Club was available, applied and was selected. Balancing classes, work and family commitments has been a challenge but the skills he acquired at the Club, the mentoring he received is evidence that persistence does bring results.

Discussions

President Gene Gardner greeted the participants in the Local Discussion and started with a tribute to older and younger generations.

One of the programs cited was the Boys & Girls Clubs that provides after school services for 250-300 students, ages 6 – 18, at 3 locations. From the Homework Power Hour to Money Matters and discussions on leadership and character, they have collected evidence that their students do persevere.

Another program is Achieve United Way and their career exploration program at the high school level. One student, who participated, was frequently truant. She found her career in allied health and soon improved her attendance, raised her GPA, and enrolled in dual enrollment courses at the high school/community college. Now she is a full-time honors student at Black Hawk College. When she found a career that was interesting, it made a big difference in her life. She plans to pursue a BA and MS in her field of study.

Through the Service Learning network with Augustana College

in Rock Island, college students have provided needed eyeware to elementary students who were struggling in classes, and tutored at-risk students.

An intergenerational program targeting Family Literacy has paired 250 learners with 100+ tutors to encourage reading and learning skills. A special focus of their program is parenting skills.

Challenges

- Recruiting/retaining volunteers to overcome the snowbird phenomenon and seniors returning to workforce.
- Overcoming the “Not in my backyard” perception that students at-risk are a challenge for everyone.
- Recognizing impact of social media as a tool and threat
- Meeting the overwhelming need with limited resources

Ideas and Action

- Explore collaborative ventures
- Explore service learning/civic engagement as a potential way to handle the volunteer recruitment challenge. The college students can include their service experiences on their applications for graduate school. Another possibility might be a local employer who offered paid time away for workers to be tutors. When an employee had achieved a set number of hours, they would receive some sort of recognition – perhaps a coupon for a movie, dinner, tickets to a sporting event or concert, etc.

Illinois Central College

The key to healthy lifestyles and increasing graduation rates is connecting people and resources.

November 16 - Peoria

Rita Ali, Executive Director,
Diversity

Healthy Lifestyles

You can purchase a cheeseburger for 99 cents but you have to pay more than \$2 for a salad, said Dr. Andy Chou, a local vascular surgeon and graduate of Peoria Public Schools, said that the price of the cheeseburger was driven down due to consumer demand for this product which, when eaten in excess, can be damaging to your heart and health. As a society, he stressed, we must demand healthy foods. If the masses of people begin to do so, the price of healthy items will be driven down and we'll be better off health-wise and money-wise.

Discussion participants registered to participate in a group discussion on either Healthy Lifestyles (two groups) or Education (three groups). Each group discussed their selected topic for approximately 45 minutes before reporting their findings and recommendations to the full body of participants.

Healthy Lifestyles: Participants were in agreement that this community has many health related resources including three major hospitals, a public medical school, a public health department, several institutions of higher education which provide education in health careers, other health service

organizations, and a host of retired health professionals. The key, they concluded is effectively connecting these resources to benefit the mutual needs and interests of our youth and older adult populations.

Ideas for improving healthy lifestyles:

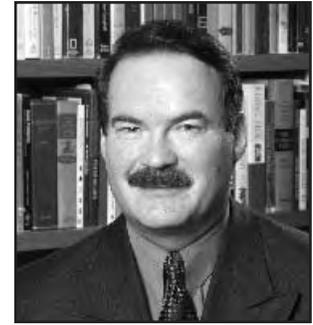
- Establish a Pre-Med Club for middle and high school students desiring to go into medical professions. Provide medical courses at the schools and include hands-on activities and practical training through volunteering at a local hospital. Involve retired professionals and medical students.

Participants felt strongly that there are many retired professionals and lay people who reside in this area who could assist the educational process. These resources should be connected in creative ways to inspire and develop talent among our youth.

Youth need people they can talk to about the things they dislike about school and things going on in their lives — someone objective. Three groups presented this same recommendation.

Ideas and Action

- Provide Time to Talk and Listen
- Establish a speaker's bureau, resource group, or Generation Forum composed of numerous retired professionals and lay people that can be called on to talk to youth.
- Parents Are Part of the Solution



President John Erwin

"The community college is well-positioned to address the intergenerational needs of an aging population. By opening up the dialogue about the needs and expectations of our various students and communities, we have assisted in raising the awareness for fulfilling this critical mission."

Provide parental education that helps parents understand how education and nutrition go hand-in-hand. Parents can also be educated and empowered on how to redirect their children when they're just playing games or texting when they could be studying.

• Cultural Renaissance

Cultural attitudes among our youth must be shifted so that they understand that education leads to freedom and opportunity; here again, a cultural renaissance is needed and seniors can help to assist this.

- Involving Alumni and Other Volunteers: The college has an extensive pool of alumni that can be tapped as ambassadors or volunteers for assisting education and health related goals and objectives.
- The coordination of volunteer efforts (recruitment, orientation, assignment, management, etc.), however, requires some degree of resource allocation (financial / human). We continue to seek opportunities to fund these initiatives.



President Allen Goben

“What we’re competing against is not the next person, school, city, county, or even country. Our common competitor is the colossal waste of time, money, and energy that characterizes our society today. We will meet this challenge by collaborating effectively and by leveraging the diverse power of multiple generations.”

December 2 - Normal

Kim Barman, Dean of Community & Corporate Education

Success Stories

The McLean County Wellness Coalition started with a few people who were concerned about the growing rate of obesity and other health issues. Soon other organizations realized they had similar goals and joined the coalition. They discussed how they could increase communication, facilitate collaboration and explored funding opportunities. Working together, the coalition was successful in obtaining a grant called ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation & Environmental Change). The coalition is discussing community assets and identifying areas of need to improve the community’s health.

Heartland Community College

McLean County coalition for health brings positive results across generations.

Some of the suggestions being considered by the McLean County Wellness Coalition to improve the county’s health include:

- Expanding the number of farmers markets and community gardens
 - Providing safer access to Constitution Trail by working with the cities to improve sidewalks
 - Collaborating with restaurants to make healthier menu choices clear
 - Encouraging employees to spend their breaks being physically active
 - Working with employers and schools to have healthier choices in vending machines and cafeterias
 - Encouraging supermarkets to make candy less accessible and fruits and vegetables more accessible
 - Working with insurance companies and employers so that disease prevention work gets more widespread insurance coverage.
- Connecting community and campus leaders has been a great accomplishment toward building a collaborative strategic plan.

Discussion

At the event, participants choose to attend one of three breakout sessions, one of which focused on utilizing volunteers in the high schools. Attendees were interested in utilizing all available volunteers from parents to older adults. Needs identified included greeters for events, parking lot supervisors, hallway monitors and tutors. Representatives from the high

schools highlighted an opportunity for the college to provide support for this initiative by training and certifying the volunteers to serve within the schools.

The group also supported exploring innovative ways to connect generations by having the youth (possibly high school students) teach others about technology.

Some older adults are not familiar with how to use a computer, or if they are, their knowledge is very limited. This group wondered if young adults could volunteer at senior centers, independent/assisted living facilities, etc to educate these seniors on how to utilize technology. The group felt it would be a valuable experience for the youth and also provide education and companionship to the seniors, but recognizes that screening and training would be necessary for the students who volunteer.

Ideas and Action

- Create awareness around the issues of obesity, physical activity, nutrition, and chronic disease.
- Share data on placement results and moving initial college placement tests to the junior year
- Increase career assessments and life mapping activities and counseling between high schools and Heartland Community College.
- Explore the possibility of technology training for older adults by high school students.

Morton College

Continuing education brings continued mental vitality.

November 10 - Cicero

Derek Shouba

Dean of Arts and Sciences

Success Stories

A faculty member shared a story of a man who took his first speech class in his 70s. Later, the older student returned to thank the faculty member for changing his life. After the speech class he had gone to a talent agency, then earned a role in a television commercial, and eventually used the money to fund a trip around the world. This is a clear example of the positive reciprocal links between age and education! According to one panelist, research shows a link between continuing education and continuing mental vitality.

The moderator of the discussion, retiree Dr. Phyllis Walden, described how she had decided to teach a neighbor child how to cook her favorite meal, chicken soup. The child had never known how to cook her favorite meal until this point. As a result, Dr. Walden, with the support of the child's mother, regularly teaches the child new recipes and the general principles of healthy eating. The panel thought this example demonstrates the health-related wisdom that retirees can often bring to younger folks, and the general emotional support they can provide to young people as they make their way through school.

Morton College is participating in the Achieving the Dream initiative which targets at-risk student populations in order to improve retention and reduce the number of college dropouts. Under the auspices of this national initiative, Morton College is strengthening its developmental math curriculum, improving its new student orientation process, and offering a new course on college study skills.

Linking Health and Academic Success

The College Study Skills course includes a critical module on the relationship between health and student success. In general, Morton College is committed to improving the first-year experience of all of its students, with special emphasis given to students who test into one or more developmental courses.

At this stage, Morton College is focusing on fostering an internal intergenerational dialogue related to wellness and retention. Participants include the following areas: Athletics, Fitness Center, Student Development, Deans' Offices, Office of the President, Institutional Research, Health Programs (e.g., Massage Therapy, Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant), Adult Education and Community Outreach, and the Jedlicka Performing Arts Center. Over time, the College intends to reach out to a variety of community participants, including



President Leslie A. Navarro

“Although we want our students to be successful in the classroom, it’s not enough to put all of our emphasis in any one area. All of the elements of student success, including health and wellness, should be fostered. Success in one aspect of life—intellectual or emotional—is interrelated with accomplishment in the others. The more balance students achieve, the more likely they can become well-rounded, well-adjusted, and successful over the long run.”

health and wellness organizations, district schools, governmental entities, and senior citizen service organizations.

Ideas and Action

- Strengthen the College Study Skills course to include wellness content
- Expand Wellness Committee activities
- Advertise the College’s nutrition courses as well as the Fitness Center’s services to internal and external constituencies.



President Robert L. Mees

“With the current state of the economy in Illinois and throughout our country, generations working together could be one of keys in our road to recovery. We have over 2 million people in Illinois over the age of 60 that could be a tremendous resource in making this happen. However, it has to be a coordinated effort with our school districts, community colleges, universities and aging organizations throughout our state in planning and implementing a program to promote healthy lifestyles, volunteerism, part-time employment for seniors, lifelong learning and better completion rates for our students we serve.”

November 22 - Carterville

Julia Schroeder, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Success Story

The importance of Boomers to the future of education in Illinois comes home in the College and Career Readiness program. A retired teacher, Judie Pike, became an Education Guide to help students in their transition from high school to college. She said, “The students often are naïve and scared and threatened by the new environment in a college setting. With help, they grow and develop skills so they can succeed.” Pike spent an average of four

John A. Logan College

Retired teachers help guide students in College Readiness Program

hours a week with each student. Her activities as an Education Guide included helping students organize their work and their time, helping them determine their learning style, assisting them to determine their specific needs and then setting goals to meet those needs, reviewing with them for tests and helping them to practice presentations. Administrators of the College and Career Readiness program praise Pike for her empathy, creativity, and commitment. The Guides have been key to the success of the program because of the one-on-one relationships.

Another program at Herrin High School endorses mandatory tutoring for high school students who are failing two or more courses. Students must attend a tutoring session for one hour after school each day until they raise at least one course grade to passing. High school administrators meet each semester to identify at-risk students, that is, students failing multiple courses. School administrators meet with these students on a weekly basis to identify root problems and encourage the students to succeed.

Discussion

Lt. Governor Shelia Simon applauded the participants for their commitment to service and for their good ideas to help increase graduation rates and healthy lifestyles. “What you are working

on is significant for populations throughout the state. The question now is how we make it work.”

Partnerships for Health

Carbondale Community High School is a school health center located on campus and provides convenient affordable, high-quality medical, dental and social services to students and their immediate family members. The goal of the facility is to improve physical and mental health and prevent disease. Some benefits expected of school health services include reduced absences and lost school time, promotion of healthy lifestyles, comprehensive and coordinated delivery of services (medical, dental, mental health and health education). Partners include: the Carbondale community Shawnee Health Service, Carbondale School District No 95 & 165, Jackson County Health Department, Southern Illinois Regional Social Services, Southern Illinois Healthcare Community Benefits Department.

Ideas and Action

- Resource Fairs to provide education for parents on what they can do to help their student succeed.
- Introduce an Adopt-A-Student program at the College Information Fair. This program would recruit volunteers for the Career Guide program that is currently operated through the Educational Programming office.

Southeastern Illinois College

Communication challenges for all generations: Being aware of resources and services!

November 16 - Harrisburg

Dr. Dana Keating

Vice President for Academic Affairs

A Communication Challenge

There are numerous programs and services available to senior citizens in the region to address their needs. One challenge is to make sure that those who need the services are aware of them, and can access them. One problem is the frustration of communicating with the appropriate person when trying to access a service. Many institutions, agencies and offices have automated telephone systems that can become frustrating for senior adults. Many simply don't have the knowledge, skill and ability to work through some of these systems to get to the right person, or a person at all. Some agencies require that a person divulge a great deal of private, personal information in order to receive services. Senior adults are fearful of providing this information given the threat of identity theft.

Without knowledgeable family members to assist, many may not be making good decisions, which could affect their access to or quality of health care and other services. Therefore, while many services may be available, the group felt there are barriers to accessing these services to those who probably need them the most.

Success Story

This student's story started at Southeastern Illinois College on

August 31, 2010, and has already involved many departments. The student enrolled in the fall GED program. With the assistance of the instructors and the pilot program of introducing a Math tutor into the classroom, the student completed his GED by October 2010. He said "Honestly, if it were not for the special classes I would not have passed the GED exam." He continued, "If you're willing to put in the effort, obtaining your GED is definitely worth it!"

Once obtaining his GED the student immediately signed up for 18 credit hours for the Spring 2011 semester. He has overcome many of life's obstacles, but in the face of adversity, he ignored the negatives and always focused on the positive. The student readily touts the success of the GED program as well as the valuable assistance he received from the college in general. He is a highly motivated individual and is eager to help others. Since he obtained his GED, he has volunteered to speak to others about his experience.

Local Discussion

The region served by Southeastern Illinois College is addressing the problem of high school dropouts by programs generally provided by the public schools and the College. The public schools provide the traditional supportive programs, including two alternative schools. At least one high school has a special program/support group for pregnant students with the



President Jonah Rice

"Philosopher George Santayana cautioned us to remember our past lest we repeat mistakes from it. I believe it is vital that we learn from previous generations and treat them as valuable resources of knowledge and tradition in order to make progressive change for our society and culture.

For those who do drop out of high school, the College provides many avenues of support through GED programs, the Student Success Center, and tutoring programs to assist them to overcome barriers and move them to the next level of post-secondary education."

goal of keeping them in high school throughout and after their pregnancy. The College provides a number of dual credit career and technical education programs that provide "hands-on" programs for students, which are tuition free.

Ideas and Action

- Stronger Coalition: Further expansion of the interagency council to ensure that it is inclusive
- Marketing Campaign: The exploration of a possible cooperative educational marketing campaign and/or comprehensive marketing piece to better educate target populations about available services
- Volunteer Program: High school volunteer programs could be initiated, and SIC's volunteer program could be further expanded.



President Larry Peterson

Shawnee Community College

Successful students return as guest speakers to share their experiences and tell about the importance of learn-

November 12 - Anna

Jean Boyd, Dean of Instructional Services

Success Story

Nontraditional students have had success tutoring alternative students. For example, when they met for the first time, the students felt at ease and were very open and honest with their tutors. The students told them how easy it was to deceive parents today. They said if their parent asked how they were doing in school all you had to say was “good” because they would never take the time to check. They talked about how they wished their parents would give them more attention and discipline and maybe they would be more successful today. The senior citizens talked about the strict discipline from their days and how they would not tolerate the behaviors today. Shawnee Community College offers an alternative high school program and afterschool program which meets the needs of a growing population of at-risk students for credit recovery for high school completion. This program graduated 79 high school completers in the spring of 2010.

For students who choose to drop out of high school, the college

offers a comprehensive GED program at the main campus and centers located throughout the five-county area. There are currently 12 GED classes offered for the fall 2010 semester. Headcount for an academic year averages 280 students.

Students who succeed often return to their classes and share their experiences. One 42-year-old non-traditional student completed the GED program and then enrolled in a bridge to healthcare class, completed this program for a career readiness certificate and CPR certification. The student received the GED scholarship to attend Shawnee Community College for the fall of 2010 and is a current student in an Allied Health Program. This student has gone back to other GED classes as a motivational speaker to encourage students of all ages to stay in school and get their high school diploma or GED.

A partnership with high school and community college administrative staff and counselors can bring new momentum to decrease the drop out rate. A variety of resources can help make an impact, such as remedial classes in the high school, involving students in the Talent Search Program (grades 6 – 12), offering after school programs for academic enrichment, and summer school programs for credit recovery.

Ideas and Action

- Build partnerships with other agencies (Department of Aging, D.H.S. offices, local civic groups) to help the college continue to address generational gaps and build a foundation for continuing communication between the young and older adults.

• Parenting Classes

As a result of information received at the local discussion on aging and education, the Adult Education Program will offer parenting classes for ages 15 years of age and up to cover issues and concerns such as: communication between parents and children, how to help children with homework, healthy lifestyle issues, and college and career readiness opportunities.

- Offer more flexible hours for use of the fitness center for extension centers and on-campus.

- Encourage a mix of traditional and non-traditional students in classes. This would help build relationships across generational gaps. One way to encourage older persons to enroll in these classes is to introduce them to the idea of auditing the courses (since some stated they don't need the credit but enjoy learning).

- Build a network of retired teachers and administrators from within their district to serve as classroom guest speakers or serve as volunteer mentors or tutors.

Southwestern Illinois College

It is important to connect the networks and learn how each network could assist in meeting community needs.

December 2 - Belleville

Valerie Thaxton, Vice President,
Student, Campus & Community
Services

Success Story: A Volunteer Who Makes a Difference

Mrs. G., age 75 and a Foster Grandparent volunteers at the SIUE Bluffview Head Start Center in Caseyville, IL. The Center prepares children for school through reading, writing, language development, and teaching social and emotional skills. Many of the children come from migrant families. Volunteering for four years, Mrs. G. has a gift for assisting children identified as having social and emotional difficulties.

When asked how volunteering touches her life, Mrs. G replied, "Each morning. I wake up knowing that I am making a difference in the lives of so many young people. Being a Foster Grandparent volunteer has helped me remain physically active and has given me an outlet to continue focusing on others."

The Local Discussion was invigorating and informative as evidenced by the fact that many of the participants have expressed a desire to reconvene to further discuss partnership opportunities that have a win-win potential with partners focusing on a common goal. The participants stressed the importance of relationships with service providers – "you can't refer people to opportunities you don't know about."

There was consensus that it is important to connect networks and to learn how each network could assist in meeting community needs.

We must get better at establishing baseline information and at effectively evaluating program/service impact in order to garner more resources by writing competitive grants. Good grants require good data.

Participants agreed that relationships are key to addressing dropout issues, older adult service issues and networking/referrals among agencies. Tutoring, truancy initiatives, 4H clubs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, scouting programs, RSVP, Foster Grandparents and AmeriCorps and many other entities have programs where engaged volunteers have been successful at establishing relationships with students (and their families) and providing support. Many of these programs are intergenerational and depend on adults and retirees to serve as volunteers.

Participants agreed that the "relationship" was just as important to the volunteer and that such volunteer opportunities enhanced the quality of volunteers' lives.

The Regional Offices of Education have programs which address dropouts and the schools have support programs. SWIC has a High School Academy summer remediation program and the YMCA provides tutoring to help kids stay in school.



President Georgia Costello

"We all need someone in our lives who expects a lot of us, holds us accountable, teaches the moral values, and instills integrity and courage to carry on. Older adults and students give each other this support."

Ideas and Action:

Current connections between aging, education and service are good, but could be strengthened by determining barriers to service and by more collaborative efforts.

- 1) There was consensus that barriers to volunteering need to be reviewed; many volunteers who might significantly impact the lives of others are deterred by barriers.
- 2) Participants agreed that we must continue to collaborate and to focus on aspects of programs that foster relationships with people and entities. As a region, we must determine our collective needs in these targeted areas and bring the partners together who can address these needs.
- 3) The legislature creates an opportunity to communicate its needs at the local level by making targeted funds available; targeted funds would be welcomed.
- 4) Without adding another layer of bureaucracy, there is a benefit to establishing a mechanism to connect the various service networks in the region.



President John H. Metoyer

“The local discussion provided an opportunity to listen as individuals described what was happening in their local communities and how working together can spark new momentum through intergenerational civic engagement to increase graduation rates and promote healthy lifestyles.”

November 19 - Chicago

Anna Blum, Dean, Continuing Education and Special Programs

Success Stories

The City Colleges of Chicago partner with the Division on Aging to offer Life Long Learner programs. The colleges offer courses to those 60+ at various senior centers in the City of Chicago without cost. Some of the classes offered include Introduction to Electronics, Computer Basics, Basic and Advanced Digital Photography, Working with Clay.

A story about intergenerational communication developed during the Fall 2010 semester when Harold Washington College assigned a 27-year-old instructor to the Introduction to Electronics class. Thirty-five students of all ages attended. The instructor held an M.S. degree in Gerontology. The computer basics class with 17 students was assigned to a

Harold Washington College

When students need a sounding board for job seeking and higher-ed decision-making, older adults can help.

young instructor as well. Seniors in these intergenerational classes appeared engaged with their younger instructors. For example, the students in the computer course wanted their instructors to elaborate on the value of computer speed and consumer software. Students in the electronics class requested guidance in areas such as Facebook and on-line consumerism.

Both instructors reported that the level of student engagement was high. Most important, both students and instructors gained insight from these intergenerational information sharing classes. Instructors requested more assignments with Seniors. For their part, older learners requested permission to keep in touch with their instructors.

Discussions

During the Local Discussion, we focused on nutrition and healthy life styles as common factors affecting learning abilities. Bridging the gap between cultural and economic abilities to chose healthy life styles as well as nutritional options led us to a spirited discussion on the possibilities of urban agriculture, canning, knitting and oral histories

In closing, the value of service learning and community involvement was discussed. Attendees from community based organizations were encouraged to contact the service learning coordinator at Harold Washington College.

Ideas and Action

- Examples of ways to incorporate nutrition and healthy life styles included offering canning and food preserving classes in the public schools and/or via local cable TV stations.
- School building or community resources could be utilized during the summer months. Intergenerational communication and learning would occur. Additionally, instruction on canning and preserving skills could incorporate some basic science and green living skills.

We also explored the possibility of public schools partnering with grocery chains along these same lines.

Next we focused on the intergenerational component as it relates to creating better pathways and opportunities for students.

- Creating initiatives for older adults in the various communities/ neighborhoods mentor students in such areas as job seeking, or higher education decision making.
- Creating nurturing and supportive relationships between students still in public schools or students looking to enter the workforce.
- The Silver Lining Foundation offered to devote a segment on their cable television show to showcase some of the ideas we discussed.

East St. Louis Community College Center

It takes a village to raise a child: the sad reality is that it takes a village to allow a child to fall through the cracks.

November 8 - East St. Louis

Success Stories

Sharon Ward and her nephew delivered food boxes to Senior Citizens throughout the community. At her local church, they gather with other youth to sort, package and deliver food to seniors in the community. Annually, College Students come home for the holidays, volunteer on Thanksgiving and Christmas to serve people hot Holiday meals. These experiences give the youth an opportunity to appreciate the blessings of unity and giving. When they work to prepare the baskets of food, they depend upon each other to complete a project successfully.

However, the project isn't complete until they can see the smiles on the faces of people who have lived and loved in the churches and in the community where the youth now live and love in. The greatest joy for the youth is in realizing that they were responsible for the smiles that they see on the faces of folks who used to make them smile: former Sunday school teachers, retired teachers, retired local businessmen and women, grandparents, aunts and uncles, neighbors and friends. These retired individuals also become the teachers in their after school tutoring program. This picture is juxtaposed against the popular picture of delinquent youth bringing harm to seniors. This is the type of activity that should be replicated during the holiday

seasons and throughout the year as well...throughout the entire community.

Overall, our discussion was informative and offered promise of great things to come. The group noted several intergenerational thrusts in the East St. Louis community which have not been identified as such. For example, several organizations in our community are addressing dropouts and promoting healthy lifestyles for all ages through mentoring programs. Other groups, like churches and other faith-based organizations have hosted children's programs and services for years utilizing the volunteer services of senior citizens, (after school activities with Foster Grandparents, Real Men/Women Read, tutoring, volunteer classroom aids, and more) We noted that the connections between aging, education and service have been overlooked, and the benefits have been minimized, although intergenerational community relationships seem to be quite prevalent in this area.

Ideas and Action

- 1) Target existing intergenerational initiatives which already function well in this area.
- 2) Identify other initiatives which may work for this community.
- 3) Pool resources of the various initiatives to maximize effectiveness.
- 4) Engage as many youth as possible in activities which emphasize.

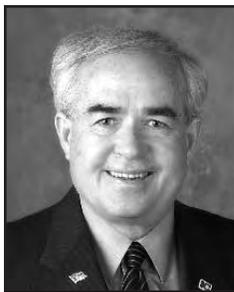


Director Anita Brandon

"Through the years, it took some level of collaborative inactivity for us to reach the devastating drop-out rates that we see in our public school systems across this great state and country. Hence, it will necessarily take a greater level of intentional collaborative activity within this and other villages throughout the state and country to undo a great damage. I am hopeful that this and other discussion groups can make a difference in the lives of youth, older adults and everyone else who reside in the East St. Louis area. Inasmuch as the old adage, 'It takes a village to raise a child' is true, the sad reality remains that, It takes a village to allow a child to fall through the cracks."

learning from and volunteering services to others.

- 5) Promote story telling" and oral history local seniors can share the rich history of the proud and strong people of East St. Louis.
- 6) Engage older adults in African dance projects with the youth on the ESL Higher Education Campus; Hosting intergenerational poetry and spoken word events with teens/college students and older adults.
- 7) Invite local seniors to ESLCCC to have tea and talks with young men and women about challenges in life.



President James Underwood

“We believe through a partnership of the colleges, public agencies, the schools, and the business and industry sector, much can be and will be accomplished.”

December 2 - Centralia

Kelli Henegar, Dean of Arts & Science

Success Stories

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, a group of business and community leaders come to Centralia Junior High School to eat lunch with their designated mentee. Each child receives individual attention from the same mentor week after week, and positive relationships are developed. When an adult takes time out of their day to sit and talk with a child, it sends a strong message to the child about how much others care about their success. Over the last two years, teachers have noticed an increase in student's self-esteem and academic achievement of those students participating.

Another program at the Centralia Junior High School features a partnership with the Centralia Southern Illinois Networking Association to provide a mentoring program for junior high age students who are having academic or social difficulties. Over the last two years, the

Kaskaskia College

The Core Values Team visits elementary and secondary schools to talk about higher education, graduating from high school and staying in school.

Super Heroes mentoring program has provided long term one-on-one guidance and support to over 15 students. Kaskaskia College will be participating in this program with several faculty and staff members volunteering as a result of the Local Discussion.

Several groups discussed the need for an early reading intervention program for students at the elementary level. Equally vital to the success of a student, is the support at home. Building stronger relationships with the student's family was highlighted as a key area of concern. Providing stronger connections to the family provides the schools the opportunity to support the family and the student in the learning process. The participants recommended that educational programs be established for the parents that help parents with raising both elementary and secondary age students. Possible program topics discussed included: importance of reading at a young level, proper nutrition, proper dental hygiene, community resources, drugs, teen pregnancy, saving for college, and preparing for college.

The Ambassadors Program recruits retirees to assist at cultural events held on campus. The Ambassadors also volunteer their services through the Kaskaskia College

Reading Link program that provides free tutoring for the adult education programs at the college. These programs include adult basic education, GED, and English as a Second Language.

Leaders from the Core Values Team visit elementary and secondary schools, and share their insights. The Team briefs younger students on higher education opportunities, graduating from high school, and staying in school.

Ideas and Action

- Early intervention programs for students who are at risk of early drop-out.
- Consistency in credit values in Illinois secondary education school systems will make it easier for students who transfer to a different high school.
- Expansion of health fairs at high schools and community venues
- Nutritional education and awareness for high school students and the elderly.
- A program to encourage growing your own healthy foods or a neighborhood program that supports a community garden and creation of small businesses by students.
- Stronger sex education programs at the high school/junior high level.
- A summer program to help students catch up academically with their class.

Harper College

There was consensus about the energy that civically engaged older adults can bring to schools.

November 16 - Palatine
Mark Mrozinski, Dean of
Continuing Education

Success Story

The Community Consolidated District 15, serving the Palatine area, features a program called Senior Exchange. Over the years, retirees like Joe Arrigo, who visits classrooms with his creative science called *From Peanut Butter to Diamonds*. An organic chemist, Arrigo is a walking advertisement for science. He spent 27 challenging years in industrial research, then launched his second career lecturing, writing, and teaching real-world chemistry. Now he is in his third career, describing the impact of chemistry to young people and helping them learn about science as a possible career.

Discussion

President Kenneth Ender, president of Harper College, invited 17 education and aging professionals to Harper's campus to discuss the issues of health, civic engagement, and high school dropout rates. The participants shared vignettes of recent successes in the areas of student achievement and intergenerational programming. For example, one district related increases in math scores as a result of a multi-generational family learning program. Through this initiative, the district has increased family partnerships and connections between families and the school. The next area of focus for that district will be literacy efforts and mentoring pro-

grams for middle school students.

Discussion naturally transitioned to intergenerational collaborations, and more specifically, how senior serving organizations are currently engaging older adults with today's youth. Everyone noted the energy and impact that civically engaged older adults can bring to the primary and secondary education environment. Several examples were cited that demonstrated this impact.

Finally, obstacles and future goals were discussed. Participants agreed that lack of coordination between organizations did not allow for the leveraging of resources, and in many cases, partnerships were reinventing the wheel when a readily available model might save much time in planning. Participants also noted the lack of resources needed to fulfill legal and regulatory issues when bringing older adults into the educational process.

Participants agreed that a representative group of educators and senior serving organizations should be established for the purposes of collaboration and coordination of services and programs. New intergenerational programs might be spawned that would benefit both youth and older adults. The local community college is the obvious hub for this discussion. As Harper College recently launched an aggressive strategic plan focused on student success, there is a certain



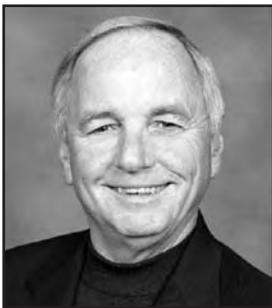
President Kenneth Ender

"In order for the next generation to earn a middle class wage, a post-secondary education will be required. Thus, we must do everything in our power to prepare students for credentials beyond high school. Older adults, through civic engagement and service, can fill a vital role in helping students prepare for, and succeed in post-secondary education."

confluence of vision, which joins the College with primary and secondary educators, and the untapped resource that older adults play in the educational process.

Ideas and Action

- Conduct an inventory of all the volunteer programs and partnerships among schools and senior serving organizations in Harper College's district.
- Shift focus from dropout rates to college readiness. College readiness may resonate more strongly with local educators.
- Review dropout and college readiness data for high school districts within Harper's community.
- Explore resource sharing among schools and senior serving organizations, specifically with regard to intergenerational programming.
- Explore grants to provide resources to schools and senior-serving organizations for assisting with the development of volunteer programs.



President George Dammer

“Working with older adults and youth are two high priorities at South Suburban College and connecting the two groups is especially rewarding.”

November 30 - South Holland
Becky Adave, Dean, Extension Services

Success Story

Thornton Township has the ZAP Senior Lawn Care, which provides low-cost basic lawn maintenance for senior residents residing in single family homes who need assistance with routine lawn tasks. They hire students from High School Districts 205 and 215, who are recommended by the school counselor and/or principal based on their academic and attendance merits. It is a great experience for both the seniors and the students. It has changed perspectives for both groups—the seniors have learned that the students are not all thugs and the students have learned that seniors are not all mean. In some cases, relationships have been built outside the program, where students are doing other chores for the seniors.

Sandy Bein, SSC faculty, told about her 16-week intergenerational communication class. “In the

South Suburban College

Part of the disconnect between generations is the knowledge and understanding

beginning the older students are shocked at the values, or lack of them, in the 18 - 19- year-old students.” Bein said “Something magical happens during those 16 weeks. Since it is a communication class, there is a lot of dialog during the course of the semester. Gradually understanding is developed between the students, old and young. “I’m not sure how it happens, but it is very powerful.” Just being in this intergenerational group has helped the students appreciate the differences between generations.

Aunt Martha’s Teen REACH provides a comprehensive, family centered, prevention program aimed at youth, ages 11-13, who are in need of improved educational performance. Other services include tutoring, recreation, mentoring, substance-abuse prevention, life skills education and parental activities. Aunt Martha’s has a number of group homes. Each group home hosts an evening that different organizations bring donated gifts. The children are the hosts and hostesses. They read poetry that they have written and talk about what’s going on with them.

High School District 205 is creating a freshman academy in one of their buildings to better address the challenges that incoming freshman face and better prepare them for high school with a comprehensive support system.

Some of the strengths of our discussions were the number and variety of experts in the room, both from South Suburban College and outside agencies and organizations. The conversations had a very positive tone; the guests were pleased to be included and willing and eager to come back again for a follow-up meeting.

Ideas and Action

- The services that are available are unknown; there needs to be a liaison between the service organizations. Is that a role the community college should play? Also, a resource book was suggested.
- Coordination of volunteers is needed, which would include funding for such a position or group.
- Part of the disconnect between generations is knowledge and understanding; there needs to be teaching each generation about the others. Baby boomers, Generation X, Generation Y or Millennial and now Generation Z.
- Increasing parental involvement was widely discussed in each group as well as partnering with groups to provide mentoring for both students and parents.

South Suburban College was asked by the attendees to host a follow-up meeting in a few months, bringing back the same attendees but also adding the same of number of students to the group. We will schedule that for February or March.

Highland Community College

In many cases volunteers were thrilled to be asked--not only to volunteer but to participate in social activities.

November 6 - Freeport

Success Story

Two retired executives host an after school tutoring program in their small community, with the blessing of the school. While they know that this cannot be replicated in all communities, they have seen positive results with the students and with the people who participate. In many cases they reported that the volunteers were thrilled to be asked. They stressed the need to ask people, not just to volunteer, but to join in social activities as that social connection is what they believe is the key to living a healthy lifestyle. This is especially important in small rural communities.

Discussion

President Joe Kanosky opened the Forum by explaining the purpose for the discussion and its focus on inter-generational issues including education, retention of students and engaging older adults in service. One theme that emerged was that there are opportunities everywhere but people may not be aware of them, or they simply do not know how to get involved. Clearly asking is an important part of a successful volunteer experience. However, once asked and encouraged, most will choose to volunteer.

Discussion related to the volunteer experiences of the retirees in the Forum included: sharing the sense

of fulfillment that comes from working in the school district. The appreciation of the children is a reward. Volunteers do not always think of themselves as volunteering rather they consider themselves to be working in the community. Most volunteers learn about opportunities through their network of friends and they are often recruited to help.

When asked how organizations can encourage others to volunteer, the participants suggested Volunteer Match, an Internet program that provides broad opportunities across the country. Also service clubs and their networks can help publicize volunteer opportunities. Since transportation may be a problem, creative solutions are key to connecting the volunteer with the service opportunity.

Ideas and Action

- People need to be invited and take responsibility for staying involved.
- Need to give people a chore or job to do to get them involved.
- Governor should help build awareness that seniors have an important role to play.
- Need better communication to reach out to others and invite them to participate. A community calendar with inter-organizational communication would be helpful.
- Organizations should get together and share information and promote jointly.



President Joe Kanosky

“Intergenerational connections are important to young and old. The participants get as much if not more than they give in self-worth and being able to continue to contribute in a meaningful way. This element of feeling valued and still being able to contribute was expressed as a critical component of both mental and physical well being and focusing on a healthy lifestyle. The retired generation has so much to offer and they are just as hungry for the contact with younger generations and their peers.”

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- Need to support more volunteer coordination and supervision; promote through local agencies and programs.
 - Career Focus, a college publication, is for young people. They would like to see a lifelong learning feature.
 - Publicize information about volunteering through the senior magazine/newspaper for volunteers, in churches, through older learner programs, and through schools — students taking information to their parents or older neighbors.

Participants in the Local Discussions

Danville Area Community College

Nancy Bates, DACC Foundation; Angela Dabney, Crystal Darnell, Senior; Veterans Administration; Gladys Davis, Laura Lee Fellowship House; Chalmers Flint, Hoopston Multi Agency; Louise Free, DACC Reader's Route; Diane Hampel, Danville District 118; Alice Marie Jacobs, President DACC; Larry Jahn, Hoopston School Board Jonathon Jett, Vermilion County Job Training Partnership;; Jan Kempe, Small Business Development Center and CASA; Alice Kirby, Project Success; Eryn Lane, DACC Presidential Scholar; Veronica Martin, CRIS Healthy Aging Center; Amy Marchant, CRIS Healthy Aging Center; Vickie Miller, DACC Board of Trustees; Jeanne Mulvaney, United Way; Cindy Nicholas, DACC Recruitment and Retention; Kimberly Norton, Danville District 118; Janet Redenbaugh, DACC Math and Science Dean; Cheryl Reifsteck, Regional Office of Education; Bob Rice, Danville Catholic Schools; Connie Schroeder, DACC Nursing; Dick Shockey, Lakeview College of Nursing; Sara Van De Walker, DACC Corporate and Community Education; LaToya Young, DACC TRIO Program

East St. Louis Community College Center

Sharon Ward, Mt. Zion Baptist Church member and economic development specialist; Billie Turner, U of I, E. St. Louis Action Research Project (ESLARP) (community liaison); Jessica Freiburger, Grad. Student, Washington Univ. Brown School of Social Work (community organizer); Sr. Beth Marie Ruder, Catholic Urban Programs (recreation after school youth programs); Les Johnson, Southwestern Illinois College at ESLCCC. (Adult Education); Treasure Williams, Southwestern Illinois College at ESLCCC. (English Professor); Anita Brandon, East St. Louis Community College Center (ESLCCC), Director.

Illinois Central College

Adam Alhassan, Community Participant; Sarah Alhassan, Community Participant; Rita Ali, Exec. Dir. Of Diversity, ICC; Deb Berardi, CDSMP Program Manager, Central IL Agency on Aging; Marcia Bolden, Director, TRIO Upward Bound, ICC; Destini Bond, Upward Bound Student, ICC; Molly Bright, Retired Teacher, Peoria Public Schools; Andy Chiou, Vascular Surgeon/Guest Speaker, Peoria Surgical Group; Cindy Clark, Asst. Principal Peoria High School; Cydney Condit, Instructor – Health Careers, ICC; Kelly Crawford-Jones, Assoc. Prof., Health Careers, ICC; Kerishena Deal, Upward Bound student, ICC; Tim Delinski, Instruct. Improvement Off.-Primary, Peoria Public Schools; Ann Eads, Upward Bound Tutor, ICC; Joyce Edwards, Special Projects Coordinator, Workforce Network; John Erwin, President, ICC; Karhmen Feurtado, Director TRIO SSS, ICC; Jeannie Gullett, Advisor, TriO SSS, ICC; Shellie Hardimon, Advisor/Transfer Liaison, ICC; Donna Huisenga, Assist. Prof., AIT, ICC; Marcell Hulbert, VISTA- Volunteer Coordinator, RSVP, Inc.; Revonda Johnson, Instruct. Improvement Off-Middle/HS, Peoria Public Schools; Christie Joiner, Upward Bound Student, ICC; Linvela Jones-Reeves Upward Bound Student, ICC; Ashley Kimme, Volunteer Coordinator, RSVP, Inc.; Tara Lindsay, Retention Coordinator, ICC; Manasseh Morris, Upward Bound Student, ICC; Javier Rivera, ICC Student/Guest Speaker, ICC; Joann Olson, Accountant, Central IL Agency on Aging; Erika Pam, Upward Bound student, ICC; Trustee James Polk, ICC Trustee; Marge Semmen, Representative PC; Esther Smith, Upward Bound student, ICC; Anh Strow, Prof.-Health Careers, ICC; Sierra Sturdivant, Upward Bound student, ICC; Tierra Sturdivant, Upward Bound student, ICC; Salina Thomas, Upward Bound student, ICC; Kathryn Timmes, Retired Counselor, Peoria Public Schools; Jill Wright, Prof./Dean of English, ICC.

Heartland Community College

Sarah Baker, Coordinator of Workforce Services, HCC; Kim Barman, Dean of Community and Corporate Education, HCC; Jill Blair, Dean of Adult Education, HCC; Candace Brownlee, Director of Student Recruitment, HCC; Amita Chakravarty, Coordinator of Career/Technical Student Services, HCC; Lisa Cole, Faculty Academic Support, HCC; Robert Dean, Superintendent, ISU Laboratory School; Sarah DielHunt, Dean of Social and Business Science, HCC; Jerry Farris, Superintendent, Flanagan Community Unit #74; Tom Frazier, Director, Bloomington Area Career Center; Phyllis Glazier, Director, Regional Office of Education #43; Allen Goben, President, HCC; Tera Graves, Director, Livingston Area Career Center; Dan Hagberg, Dean of Math and Science, HCC; Garry Hendricks, SF Promise Council, State Farm Insurance Companies; Jeffrey Hill, Principal, University High School; Janet Hill-Getz, Executive Director of Marketing, HCC; Glen Hoffman, Director, Regional Office of Education #17; Brad Hutchinson, Superintendent, Olympia Community District #16; Gayle Johnson, Academic Advisor II, HCC; Rick Johnston, Superintendent, El Paso-Gridley Unit #11; Kim Kelley, Director of Testing Services, HCC; Jon Kilgore, Principal, Pontiac Township High School; Bethany Kriegsman, Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, HCC; Jeff Krumwiede, Guidance Counselor, Central Catholic; Mary Ann Manos, Superintendent, Hartsburg-Emden High School; Tom McCulley, Instructional Chair of English, HCC; Randall Merker, Superintendent, Heyworth Community Unit #4; Steve Mintus, Assistant Principal, Normal Community High School; Curt Nettles, Superintendent, Lexington Community Unit #7; Gary Niehaus, Superintendent, McLean County Unit District #5; Cecilia Olivares, Director of Advisement, HCC; Colleen Reynolds, Director of Alumni Relations, HCC; Allan Saaf, Vice President of Instruction, HCC; Teri Saxton, Dean of Health and Humanities, HCC; Bob Shaw, Dean of Technical Instruction, HCC; Padric Shinville, Dean of Academic Support, HCC; Stacey Shrewsbury, Lead Flight Director, HCC; Curt Simonson, Superintendent, Tri-Valley Community Unit #3; Rachelle Stivers, Director of Library and Information

Services, HCC; Lance Thurman, Principal, Olympia High School; Mary Beth Trakinat, Vice President of Continuing Education, HCC; Karen Valouche, Counselor, University High School; Reg Washington, SF Promise Council, State Farm Insurance Companies; Pam Westerdahl, Director of Employment and Workforce Services, HCC.

William Rainey Harper College

Mack Baxter, Schaumburg High School (Township High School District 211); Dr. Scott Cashman, WRHC; Karen Daly, CCSD 21; Mike Field, Township High School District 214; Dr. Bonnie Henry, Harper College Annuitants Association; Shirley Garrison, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church; Sarah Hoban, Barrington Area Council on Aging; Rebecca Hume, Arlington Heights Senior Center; Diane Lancour, Palatine Township Senior Center; Jeannette Magdaleno, Friendship Village; Fredia Martin (note taker), WRHC; Mike McCann, Friendship Village; Dr. Mark Mrozinski (facilitator), WRHC; Joyce Palmquist, Barrington Area Council on Aging; Chris Petrik, Addolorata Village; Debra Strauss, Illinois PTA.

Black Hawk College

Dean Bacon, Boys & Girls Club; Jeff Blackwell; BHC Family Literacy Program; Jenny Garner, University of Illinois Extension; Virginia Jarrett, Rock Island Schools; Glenda Nicke, Associate Dean of Extended Education Programs, BHC; Jayne O'Brien, Achieve Quad Cities, United Way; Cindy Swanson, Mississippi Bend AEA / Iowa.

Highland Community College

President Joe Kanosky, HCC President; Kelly Hillan, Senior Resource Center; Mike Shore, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; Liz Gerber, HCC; retirees, Virginia Rinehart, Lucille Alden, Phil LaBergen, Karen LaBergen, Deloris Wampfler, Shirley Parson, Don Culp, Jean Meinert, DuWayne Pople, C.J. Denekas, Bill Kibble, Jim Stem, Marg Schemerpfing, Kittye Senneff, Bill Senneff, Selena Beadle, Eileen Kuehe

Southeastern Illinois College

Darlene Dearing, Community Education Secretary and senior citizen, SIC; Jane Flannigan, Part-time Dean of Community Education and retiree, SIC; Donna Hearn, Community Education Supervisor, SIC; June Jamison, Rides Mass Transit Coordinator, Rides Mass Transit; Dr. Dana Keating, Vice President for Academic Affairs, SIC; Barbara Keller, Nursing Faculty Member, SIC; Lu Maddox, Community Volunteer, Walker & Associates; Andrea McRoy, college student, SIC; Sylvia Moore, Nursing Faculty Member, SIC; Valeria Potter, Training Specialist, Mid-Five Employment and Training (WIA); Dr. Jonah Rice, President, SIC; Ed Rose, Retention Specialist, SIC.

Southwestern Illinois College

Cheryl Brunsmann, SIUE; Theresa Collins, Senior Services Plus; Dr. Robert Daiber, Madison County Regional Office of Education; Kelton Davis, Monroe/Randolph Regional Office of Education; Janice Dorris, Retired Educator; Dale Fiedler, Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation; Amanda Guinn, AmeriCorps; Sharon Hamilton, Programs and Services for Older Persons; Kevin Hutchison, St. Clair County Health Department; Alice Jackson, St. Clair County Office on Aging; Felicia Jackson, Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital; Linda Crawl Jackson, University of Illinois Extension; Dr. George Kohut, Belleville Township High School District 201; Dr. Debra Moore, St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department; Joy Paeth, Area Agency on Aging; Jorge Perez, Southwest Illinois YMCA; Marlene Powell, Senior Volunteer; Vicki Rose, Programs and Services for Older Persons; Susan Sarfaty, St. Clair County Regional Office of Education; Dr. Valerie Thaxton, Southwestern Illinois College; Kathy Thimsen, SIUE; Anne Thomure, Memorial Hospital; Eugene Verdu, St. Clair County Office on Aging; Steve Wagoner, University of Illinois Extension; Marquita Wiley, Senior Adult Volunteer, YMCA.

Kaskaskia College

Jordan Allen, Leadership Student, KC; Lisa Atkins, Director of Adult Education and Literacy, KC; Amanda Bathon, Leadership Student, KC; Susan Batchelor, Dean of Nursing, KC; Ann Childerson, Leadership Student, KC; Dustin Foutch, Principal, Centralia Junior High School; Vanessa Frank, Leadership Student, KC; Keri Garrett, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Clinton, Marion, and Washington Counties; Tiffany Geppert, Leadership Student, KC; Megan Green, Leadership Student, KC; Anthony Hallam, Leadership Student, KC; Kellie Henegar, Dean of Arts and Sciences, KC; Thomas Henegar, Senior Minister, First Christian Church, Centralia; Benjamin Huston, Leadership Student, KC; Jared Jewell, Leadership Student, KC; Cathy Karrick, Director of Public Information, KC; Sylvia Mahle, Community Services Coordinator, Midland Area Agency on Aging – Fayette, Effingham, Marion, Clay, and Jefferson Counties; Dustin Neff, Leadership Student, KC; Lauren Netemeyer, Leadership Student, KC; Katie Price, Leadership Student, KC; Ava Rawlings, Dean of Career and Technical Education, KC; Cydney Richardson, Director of Community Education, KC; John See, Leadership Student, KC; Scott Smith, Leadership Student, KC; James Underwood, President, KC; Ashley Woodrome, Leadership Student, KC; Susie Wurth, Professor of Education, KC.

College of Lake County

James Benton, President, Lake County Retired Teachers Association; Pat Donald, Public Health Administrator, Lake County Health Department; Mike Downey, Retired Teacher, 50+ Advisory Committee; Yvette Ewing, Consultant, ATP Enterprises; Carolyn Guthman, Executive Director, Lake County Council for Seniors; Tammie Sue Johnson, Interim Director, Center for Personal Enrichment, CLC; Cheryl Levi, Service Learning Liaison, North Shore School District 112; Don Miner, Director, Highland Park Youth Services; Beverly Phelps, Retention Specialist, CLC; Rodolfo Ruiz-Velasco, Title V Grant Manager, CLC; Laura Rovang, Program Specialist, CLC; Mey Spencer, PASS Outreach Specialist, Lake County Regional Office of Education; Dr. Jerry Weber, President, CLC; Roycelee Wood, Superintendent, Lake County Regional Office of Education.

John A. Logan College

Sheila Simon, Lieutenant Governor of Illinois; Jane Angelis, Illinois Intergenerational Initiative, SIUC; Mark Collins, Superintendent, Herrin Unit District #4; Denise Crews, Associate Dean for Educational Programming, JALC; Tim Daugherty, Vice President for Administration, JALC; Amy Erickson, President of Connecting All Parents with Schools, Carbondale, IL; Scott Fitzgerald, Editor, The Southern Illinois; Toyin Fox, Director of Education Planning, JALC; Carletta Hanks, Public Relations Coordinator; Rides Mass Transit, Mike Horn, Principal, Herrin Elementary School; Jeff Keener, Assistant Principal, Murphysboro High School; Pat Kittinger, Project Coordinator, JALC; Perry Knop, Professor of Political Science, JALC; Lorrie Lefler, Conference Coordinator, Division of Continuing Education, SIU, Mandy Little, Student Trustee, JALC, Student; Angie Mausey, Student Services and Programs Department, CCHS; Patricia Mayberry, Retired parent Volunteer, Carbondale, Retiree; Brad McCormick, Vice President for Business Services, JALC; Robert Mees, President, JALC; Jake Rendleman, Board of Trustees member, JALC; Steve Robinson, Principal, Herrin Middle School; Terry Ryker, Principal, Herrin High School; Julia Schroeder, Vice President for Instruction, JALC; Deana Smith, Secretary to the Dean for Instruction, JALC; John Smith, Executive Director, Egyptian Area on Aging; Cindy Webb, Community Outreach Liaison, Man-Tra-Con.

Morton College

7 Administrators, 3 Full-time Faculty, 2 Adjunct Faculty, 6 Staff, 1 Administrative Retiree, 17 Student / Community Members, Participants include the following areas: Athletics, Fitness Center, Student Development, Deans' Offices, Office of the President, Institutional Research, Health Programs (e.g., Massage Therapy, Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant), Adult Education and Community Outreach, and the Jedlicka Performing Arts Center.

DuPage Regional Office of Education

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Participants in the Summit

Mary Ann Akerman, Rock Valley College LIR; Dana Alvarez, Heartland Community College; Karen Ament, Illinois State University; Jo Anderson, US Dept. of Education; Jane Angelis; SIUC; Amy Ballanger-Cole; Kim Barman, Heartland Community College; Debra Baron, Loyola University; Jennifer Beal, Spoon River College; Amye Bean, RSVP of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois; Amber Berman, AmeriCorps; Andi Berryman, Illinois Community College Board; Carol Blackfelner, Spoon River College; Loren Blackfelner, Spoon River College; Anna Blum, Harold Washington College; Julie Bobitt, East Central Iowa Area Agency on Aging; Tom Boward; Martha Bowman, IEA; Emily Cleer, Spoon River College; Douglas Brauer, Richland Community College; Cheryl Brunsmann, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Barb Byrne, RSVP of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois;

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New Officers for the Serve Illinois Commission



Jill Heise, Chair



Andrew Barbeau
Vice-Chair, Chair

On February 18, 2011, Jill Heise was elected chair of the Serve Illinois Commission and Andrew Barbeau, Vice-chair. Heise is the executive director of SOAR (Streeterville Organization of Active Residents, a group that works to preserve, promote and enhance the quality of life in Streeterville, a Chicago neighborhood. Barbeau is the Managing Director of Illinois Institute of Technology's Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation, a green technology research center and education initiative that is pursuing groundbreaking work in the generation, distribution and consumption of energy

The Serve Illinois Commission is a 25-member, bi-partisan board appointed by the Governor. Its mission is to improve Illinois communities by enhancing traditional volunteer activities and supporting national service programs. The Commission is accomplishing this mission through the support of local community-based efforts to enhance volunteer opportunities and the administration of Illinois' AmeriCorps program.

The goals of the Commission include

- making communities stronger through well-managed volunteer programs,
- improving the ability of community-based organizations to maximize their volunteer resources
- increasing the number of individuals volunteering in their communities.

For more information:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/serve>

Acknowledgements

Remembering Keith Sanders, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education from 1998 to 2002 and an inspirational leader at Southern Illinois University for more than five decades

Three cheers for those who put in place the ideas for this report and to those who participated in the “Year of the Engaged Older Adult,” in the 20 local discussions, the Summit on Aging and Education, and the Gathering in the Illinois Senate.

A hearty thank you to 19 community college presidents and one Regional Office of Education for giving all of Illinois a model of leadership that is greatly needed. They and their conveners had minimal lead time to prepare for the Local Discussions and yet pulled together multigenerational groups who have given substantive suggestions on how we can increase graduation rates and promote healthy lifestyles. Thank you to the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents for helping develop the Local Discussions.

Thank you to Governor Pat Quinn for launching the Year of the Engaged Older Adult, for his strong support of service, and for the support of staff members Ted Gibbs, Julie Smith, and Jerry Stermer.

Thank you to Senate President John Cullerton and Minority Leader Christine Radogno for joining hands in a nonpartisan effort by sponsoring the May 11 Intergenerational Gathering in the Senate and the Senate Forum on Intergenerational Leadership. After that event, it was evident that this project had “legs.”

Thank you to Senator Edward Maloney and the Senate Higher Education Committee for ensuring unanimous passage of the Interdependence of Generations Resolution and to Senate staff Melissa Black, Kim Schultz, Nancy Hill and Kathryn Underwood.

A hearty thank you to sponsors of the Summit and Local Discussions including the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, Illinois Community College Trustees Association, Corporation for National and Community Service, Serve Illinois Commission, Illinois Campus Compact, Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents, Illinois Department on Aging, Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Board of Higher Education, State Universities Annuitants As-

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Last, Marion Wright Edelman says our accomplishments often come from “standing on the shoulders of our forbears.” Thank you to those who helped build the foundation for the accomplishments in 2010, including Richard D. Wagner, Keith Sanders and Emil Jones Jr. On July 1, 1986, the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved a Higher Education Cooperation Act grant with the idea of fostering a statewide intergenerational movement. Dick Wagner, CEO of IBHE from 1980 to 1998 was a long-term champion for intergenerational efforts and believed that all levels of education could benefit from the involvement of older adults. Keith Sanders, IBHE CEO from 1998 to 2002, another champion for generations, convened the first P-20 Intergenerational Service Forum and also institutionalized the Intergenerational Initiative at SIUC. Another champion and believer, who established the Senate Forum on Intergenerational Leadership, was Senate President Emil Jones, Jr.. He served as Senate President from 2003 to 2009 and during that time strengthened the link between history and intergenerational activity.

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**Knowledge and Understanding Passing from
Generation to Generation**

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