



## Illinois Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel



Carol Baness, President

What has been happening in ILAVESNP? Wow! We are really moving ahead with some great projects and plans, and we have a full slate of officers who have been nominated to take the organization to bigger and better places next year.

- ✓ We have a new website thanks to Kara McElwrath, and we have been linked to the IACTE site. Look for ILAVESNP at [www.ilavesnp.net](http://www.ilavesnp.net) or visit us by accessing the IACTE website and using our link. (IACTE website is [www.iacte.org](http://www.iacte.org)).
- ✓ We have an awards program planned for our membership with awards to be presented during the ILAVESNP Luncheon on June 21 at the IACTE Conference. The General Meeting will be held after the luncheon.
- ✓ We have membership pins which we will provide for members at our general meeting which will take place at the luncheon during the June IACTE Conference.
- ✓ We have several presentations planned for the conference including a program on Single Parents called **Today's Choices...Tomorrow's Realities**. Also,

among the conference presentations will be information on Students Living with Violence. This presentation is scheduled for Thursday June 21 and will include a student drama group from Ottawa, IL. They are excellent and will provoke some great discussion. We are lucky to have students present for our group.

- ✓ We have an administrator's academy planned for Monday, June 20. This will focus on Civil Rights Reviews and will be presented by Bill Alexander who handles Civil Rights Reviews at the State Board. This is a wonderful opportunity to get your required academy in before the end of the year.
- ✓ We are planning a hospitality room for ILAVESNP Members.
- ✓ We have some excellent tours planned. Of specific importance to ILAVESNP members will be the trip to the Central Illinois Riding Therapy. This is a facility designed to help troubled youth through riding therapy. This is certainly something of interest to ILAVESNP members. Check out their website at <http://www.cirt.info/>.

An essential part of all this planning is YOU. As an ILAVESNP member we hope that you see the value in the presentations that will be available to you at the conference. Your participation is extremely important to ILAVESNP. We would like to see 100% participation at the conference from our affiliate members

If you have any questions about any of the activities planned please contact me at [sravtecarol@insightbb.com](mailto:sravtecarol@insightbb.com).

Go to the IACTE website today ([www.iacte.org](http://www.iacte.org)) to register for this groundbreaking conference which will include a majority of the IACTE affiliates.



Past President, John Bollin



### Retirement Bound

*By Jim Stubblefield*

ILAESNP and Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE) will be losing a very trusted and dedicated person. John is a passionate man about the educational process for our young students and LaMoine Valley Educational System (LVES) will certainly miss him. His students have only praise and respect for John Bollin. His has touched many students over his tenure in education and as the starfish story goes, he helped every starfish he encountered.

On a more personal note, I will miss John, he has been a mentor, friend and colleague that will be hard to replace. I hope that he enjoys his retirement but I feel he will not be too far away from some educational endeavor and that he will always be searching for another starfish. **GOOD LUCK JOHN** and remember to call us sometimes.



President Carol Baness presenting a clock to John

Some of John’s colleagues wanted to help him in is retirement and have offered this tidbits of advice:

*Keep on coasting John! Will miss you much,*

*Cindy Gierich (alias Ms. Webster)*

*John has been the compass and conscience for ILAVESNP. We will miss him and his ability to put his finger on a problem and suggest solutions,*

*Carol Baness*

*The first time I met John Bollin was in an interview. He was applying for a position as an Industrial Tech instructor with emphasis in welding. We were impressed because he was the only applicant who knew the difference between MIG and TIG! Since then he has impressed me with his dedication and leadership. All of us at Western Area Career System will miss his humor and his “fish” stories, but most of all we will miss him. Thanks for the memories, John!*

*Joyce Taylor, Director  
Western Area Career System*



## ILAVESNP SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS

Also ILAVESNP continues to support student achievement through scholarship funds. We would also like to remind ILAVESNP members they have the opportunity to nominate secondary and post-secondary students for the (four) \$500.00 Scholarships available which helps students with training expenses. See our web site for details.

[www.ilavesnp.org/](http://www.ilavesnp.org/)

We are proud to announce the recipients of the scholarships this year are as follows:

### Secondary

1. Brain Berkeman, Wesclin Comm. High School, Trenton, IL (**Electrician**)
2. Andrew Brink, Quincy High School, Quincy, IL (**Culinary Arts**)
3. Kyle Sexton, Richwood's High School, Peoria, IL (**Microcomputer**)
4. Arron Wollbrink, Carthage High School, Carthage, IL (**Culinary Arts**)

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***ILAVESNP is working hard to serve its members.***  
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## Updates/News Clips

### Free grant-writing workshop for smaller learning communities program

Free grant-writing workshops for the Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) grants are scheduled this month. The U.S. Department of Education's request for proposals for the SLC grant program is posted in the April 26 [Federal Register](#). The workshops are being presented by the Center for Secondary School Redesign, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the UCLA School Management Program. Anyone who wants to gain a thorough understanding of the SLC grant program, and successful strategies to respond to the request for proposals, should attend. This should include grant writers, principals and superintendents. Topics to be covered include: information about the request for proposals (RFP) for Smaller Learning Communities grants, to include an analysis of the RFP to completely understand all the key elements; winning grant-writing strategies; ways that "Breaking Ranks" can be used as a vehicle to implement the SLC grant objectives; and information on evaluation strategies associated with the grant.

Anyone may attend any of the workshops listed below, one or more times. All workshops will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- May 5. Brown University Faculty Club, 1 Magee St., Providence, R.I. 401-863-3023;
- May 8. NASSP, 1904 Association Dr., Reston, Va. 800-453-7746;
- May 10. Nebraska Council of School Administrators, 455 South 11th St., Suite A, Lincoln, Neb. (402-476-8055); and
- May 12. UCLA (site TBD).

To register, send an e-mail to [info@cssr.us](mailto:info@cssr.us) indicating which program you intend to attend. For more information, contact Joe DiMartino, president of the Center for Secondary School Redesign, at [joedimartino@cssr.us](mailto:joedimartino@cssr.us), or call 401-828-0077.

## Dueling reports tackle high school dropout rates

Two new reports by separate think tanks give conflicting estimates on just how bad the high school dropout problem is, and renew the debate about the best way to track graduation rates. A new report by The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, based in New York City, confirms what everyone from politicians, to education advocates to the media have been saying all along: there is a crisis.

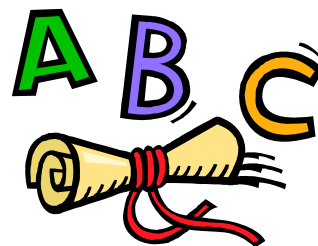
[“Leaving Boys Behind: Public High School Graduation Rates”](#) finds that the overall national public high school graduation rate for the class of 2003 was 70 percent; there is a wide disparity in the public high school graduation rates of white and minority students; the graduation rate for white students was 78 percent, compared with 72 percent for Asian students, 55 percent for black students, and 53 percent for Hispanic students; and female students graduated in higher numbers, 72 percent, compared to their male counterparts, 65 percent.

But a Washington-based think-tank, Economic Policy Institute (EPI), says in [“Rethinking High School Graduation Rates and Trends”](#) that this is an exaggeration and estimates the national graduation rate at 82 percent – double what it used to be in 1960; the graduation rate for black students is between 69 and 75 percent; and the rate for Hispanics is between 61 and 74 percent. So what’s responsible for this disparity between the two reports? It is all in how the rates are calculated. EPI contends that its report is far more accurate because it used the National Educational Longitudinal Study (NELS) data, which track individual students over time and verify diplomas against transcripts. The Manhattan Institute, meanwhile, computed these rates by dividing the number of diplomas awarded by the number of students who were in ninth grade four years earlier.

“But these calculations [such as the report by the Manhattan Institute] fail to adequately account for a national phenomenon known as the ‘ninth-grade bulge’, which causes ninth-grade enrollment, especially for minorities, to greatly exceed the number of ‘entering ninth-graders’,” EPI writes. The public’s growing pressure against social promotion has led to more students being held back in the ninth grade, EPI notes.

## Initiative seeks to address OVAE’s concerns about adult numerical literacy

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) has launched the [“Adult Numeracy Initiative”](#) to address shortfalls in numerical literacy among adults. The [“Adult Numeracy Initiative”](#) will work to provide some baseline data about the adults enrolled in adult numerical literacy programs and the practices that have been found to be effective. OVAE includes in its objectives identifying effective instructional strategies for adult learners, and examining the effectiveness of current assessment instruments in adequately measuring adult quantitative skill acquisition. The December 2005 *National Assessment of Adult Literacy*, released by the National Center for Education Statistics, found that 55 percent of American adults scored in the lowest two levels of quantitative literacy, being unable to calculate the total cost of ordering specific office supplies from a catalog. When compared to adults from other countries, Americans did not fare well on the 2003 International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey either. Adults in countries such as Switzerland and Norway outperformed American adults in quantitative literacy, according to OVAE.





Atlanta is gearing up for a great professional development experience. At the end of November, more than 5,000 career and technical educators will travel to the Peach State to participate in the only professional development event dedicated to the entire career and technical education (CTE) field.

## Mark your calendars today!!!!

### [IACTE Annual Conference and CTE Showcase](#)

June 20-22, 2006  
Holiday Inn City Center, [Peoria, IL](#)

### [ACTE Region III Conference](#)

June 21-23, 2006  
Radison Hotel, [LaCrosse, WI](#)

### ICCA Conference

October 27, 2006  
Robert Morris College, [Orland Park, IL](#)

### ITEC Conference

October 27-28, 2006  
Holiday Inn City Center, [Peoria, IL](#)

## 2006 ACTE Convention and Career Tech Expo



*Connecting Education and Careers: Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, 2006*  
**Georgia World Congress Center,  
Atlanta, Georgia**