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Newsletter

ICCHE 45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ICCHE Annual Conference was held on March 4-5, 2020, on the beautiful campus of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. This year's conference theme is "**Equity In Continuing Higher Education**".

Dr. Lorenzo Baber delivered the keynote address. Breakout sessions completed the first day of the conference. The second day started with a lovely walking tour of the campus of EIU. Breakout sessions and a working lunch, that included board elections and presentation of awards, completed the conference. Thanks goes to the wonderful planning committee and award committees for all your help to deliver such a robust conference.

Below are some photos from the conference.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear ICCHE Colleagues,

As I write this, COVID-19 has given me newfound respect for my children's teachers. After dedicating my life to adult education, I'm finding myself to be a pretty mediocre elementary school teacher. And I'm remembering fondly the last public gathering I attended before "social distancing" made me so aware of my teaching deficiencies.

The 2020 ICCHE Annual Conference, held March 4-5 at Eastern Illinois University, was a rousing success. I enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones. The conference kicked off with an inspiring address by Loyola University's Dr. Lorenzo Baber, who challenged us to pursue equity in continuing higher education by, among other things, helping to build confidence in students who come to us from a disadvantaged background. There was no better proof of the effectiveness of Dr. Baber's ideas than the heartwarming introduction provided by one of his former graduate students, newly-elected ICCHE Secretary Dena Lawrence. We then enjoyed a series of breakout sessions by some of the most brilliant and most engaging higher education scholars and practitioners in Illinois. Special thanks to the conference committee for all of their hard work and to EIU for its gracious hospitality.

But back to our disconcerting present, where the silver lining has been the world's sudden recognition of the value of distance education. We in the continuing education world have long been committed to meeting our students where they are, rather than demanding that they come to us on our terms. Like many of you, I have been called upon to help traditional faculty members at my campus bring their courses online midway through the semester—a daunting task for them and our already-overworked IT staff. As frightening as these times have been, I take solace in the fact that my ICCHE colleagues are so well positioned to help lead their institutions through this crisis. When this is all over, I am confident that you will all have played an important role in keeping your institution's students—whether enrolled in a CE program or not—on track to realize their dreams.

Be safe, be smart and take care of one another.

Matt Hlinak



2020 INNOVATIVE INITIATIVE AWARD



The Illinois Council on Continuing Higher Education (ICCHE) recognizes innovative initiatives, both credit and non-credit, which relate directly to and advance the purpose and mission of ICCHE. Each year an award is given at the annual conference. This year's winner was the **Mobile Training Center (MTC) from Prairie State College (PSC)** in Chicago Heights, IL.

PSC recently received an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to create a Mobile Training Center (MTC) program. With that grant in hand, and using matching college funds, PSC built two training centers that can be moved at will, bringing uniform training directly to employers at their sites. By using the MTCs, employers save the time and expense of sending employees off site to locations for industrial skills training. Especially in today's uncertain economic and political world, fabricators and manufacturing environments require new ways of enhancing skills and retaining their workers in order to become competitive. Mobile training can provide some of those ways.

PSC built two 53' highway truck trailers, furnishing one with arc and gas welding equipment, and the other with CNC-controlled and manual milling equipment, 3D printing equipment and a robotic arm. The training centers are temperature controlled, Wi-Fi enabled, and handicap accessible.

Employers can work with the college to design a training curriculum that meets their needs, while minimizing production downtime while the training takes place. As an added benefit, the curriculum can be designed to fit within educational degree requirements that can be applied towards college credit.

To learn more about the PSC Mobile Training Center program, visit prairie-state.edu/MTC, call (708) 709-7722, or email mtc@prairiestate.edu.



Pictured: Kelly Lapetino, Alisha Clark,
Lisa Zeigler, Craig Schmidt



To learn more about the PSC Mobile Training Center program, visit prairiestate.edu/MTC, call (708) 709-7722, or email mtc@prairiestate.edu.





PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The ICCHE Past President's Committee may select annual ICCHE Service Awards to be presented at the ICCHE state annual meeting. These awards would go to an institution and/or individual that has provided extended and exemplary service to ICCHE and the State of Illinois. The award can be given to either an individual or an institution who has displayed a long term outstanding contribution to ICCHE and exemplary service achieved beyond expectations.

This year's award was presented to **Michele Gribbons** at this year's annual conference. Below are some quotes from Michele's nomination letter. Congratulations Michele! Well deserved.

Michele has dedicated countless hours to financial stewardship of the organization as ICCHE's treasurer, has served on several conference planning committees, and promotes the overall mission of the organization to "provide leadership for statewide ... support for continuing higher education" and to "facilitate effective relationships among representatives of public and private continuing higher education programs throughout Illinois."

Michele has been responsible for overseeing the financial health of the organization and has never been afraid to have challenging conversations with other members of the executive committee regarding the long term viability of the organization.

With her support and the support of others on the executive committee, ICCHE made the difficult decision break with a decades-old tradition and began hosting its annual conference at member institutions. Under her fiscal leadership, this resulted in significant cost savings for the organization, which will ensure its long term success

Michele played an instrumental role in contract negotiations with ICCHE's previous web developer, resulting in the University of Illinois Springfield taking over that role with a vastly reduced annual cost to the organization. She has spent a great deal of time serving on various committees within the organization, including grants and awards and conference review, and has presented numerous workshops at ICCHE events



Pictured: Michele Gribbins, Terry Borg

ICCHE SPOTLIGHT

Michele Gribbins

1. How and when did you get involved with ICCHE?

My first involvement with ICCHE was back in fall 2013 when my University of Illinois - Springfield (UIS) colleagues Ray Schroeder, Carrie Levin, Emily Boles and I co-presented at the joint ICCET/ICCHE fall conference. I remember how friendly and welcoming everyone was at that conference! A few months later, the ICCHE Treasurer position was vacant and I volunteered. I have served in that role until the 2020 Conference when I got to "pass the checkbook" onto Jennifer Everhart.

I was so surprised to receive this year's Past Presidents' Award for Service to ICCHE. In my years as Treasurer, I've witnessed many dynamic leaders serve ICCHE as its President. To be recognized by them for my contribution to the organization is a huge honor!

2. What do you think is the best thing that ICCHE provides to those working in higher education?

One of the strengths of being involved in ICCHE is the network of experienced higher education professionals available to all of us. Being able to call or send an e-mail to a fellow ICCHE member who likely has experience navigating whatever question or challenge we are facing today at our own institution is so valuable. We've been fortunate to hear the "words of wisdom" from several of our ICCHE friends across the state, and hopefully we've been able to help others learn from our own experiences.

3. What was the turning point in your career that brought you to where you are today?

From 2005-2012, I was a full-time faculty member at UIS. Although I enjoy teaching, I realized during that time that I was more passionate about online learning and instructional technology than the discipline I was teaching and researching. I was thrilled when I had the opportunity to join the Center for Online Learning, Research, and Service (COLRS) at UIS because it aligned so well with my changing interests. That was a pivotal decision because my career has become more fulfilling. On top of that, I get to work with a fantastic group of colleagues who make every work day enjoyable and meaningful.

4. Tell us a bit about your work with COLRS at UIS

As the Associated Director of COLRS, I work with a team of skilled professionals who collaborate with faculty members in the design and delivery of online courses. I work specifically with our College of Business & Management faculty. In addition, I work with faculty across UIS in our Faculty Fellows Research program to promote research in online education. I also do the data analysis work for COLRS.

5. What is your best advice for people looking to enter the field of higher education today?

Follow your passion and make a positive impact. There are so many opportunities in higher education for people to be engaged in work that motivates and excites them. Every single employee in higher education has an opportunity to make a positive impact, whether they are making an impact for a student, for a fellow employee, or for the community.

6. What is something people would be surprised to know about you?

I love to plan vacations! For the last dozen years, we've been working our way to all 50 states. This summer, my husband and I will get to mark the final five states off the list of states we've visited (we just need to get five of the New England states). I'll then be planning a Summer 2021 trip to Hawaii so my sons can complete their list of 50 states visited. It's been fun planning vacations to places that we would not have traveled to otherwise.



BY REQUEST

There were several requests for a copy of the kind words expressed by Dena Lawrence.



Pictured: Dr. Baber, Dena Lawrence, Julian Parrott

HEART WARMING SPEECH

Good afternoon. My name is Dena Lawrence. I requested, and was graciously granted by our ICCHE President, the honor of introducing today's Keynote speaker, Dr. Lorenzo DuBois Baber.

Dr. Baber is an Associate Professor and Program Chair of Higher Education at Loyola University, Chicago. Dr. Baber's scholarly interest broadly examine equity and social justice in postsecondary education. His research includes leadership within community college contexts; experiences of minoritized students in postsecondary STEM education; and use of critical theory to inform higher education policies and practices.

Dr. Baber is the author of nearly forty journal articles, book chapters, and policy reports. He has participated on research teams that have collectively secured over \$5 million in grant funding. Dr. Baber has served on over 60 doctoral dissertations committees and chaired 18 including one that was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Dissertation of the Year from the American Association of Hispanics in Education. He has taught sixteen different course topics in higher education.

Dr. Baber is an active member of the Council for the Study of Community Colleges, the Association for the Study of Higher Education, and the American Educational Research Association. He currently serves as an elected member of the CSCC Board.

Dr. Baber proudly hails from Greensboro, North Carolina. He holds a Ph.D. in Education Policy Studies with an emphasis in Higher Education from Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining the faculty at Loyola University, Chicago, Dr. Baber held tenure-line faculty appointments at Iowa State University and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

It was in this capacity that I met Dr. Baber. I was a Master degree student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Education in the Education Policy Organization and Leadership program. Dr. Baber was my professor for Diversity in Higher Education. Dr. Baber doesn't know this, because I never told him, but he had a huge impact on my life. You see, I was at a difficult crossroads when I met Dr. Baber. I was suffering from a debilitating medical condition and had just changed jobs. While I enjoyed my new position, my schedule was quite demanding, with a travel schedule beyond my control. I had already "stopped-out" once, for one year, earlier in my program. I had no flexibility remaining in terms of making progress toward my degree. I had a huge decision to make. I was on the verge of quitting ... dropping out. I didn't want to talk with anyone about it. I was ashamed and didn't want to let down my family, friends and boss. Dr. Baber's support made all the difference at that critical point.

It sounds like such a small thing, to say a professor was supportive or believed in you. It's not a small thing. It was life changing for me. Remember that Dr. Baber had no idea I was going through anything. He was supportive, encouraging and expressed faith in **ALL** his students. I was not special. That's simply who Dr. Baber is and how he treats his students. At some point during that class I turned a corner. I enjoyed learning to conduct research and produced work I was proud of. Dr. Baber encouraged all the students in our class to present our research at conferences. Further, he provided opportunities for us to do so. Dr. Baber got our research projects published – a first for me! One day Dr. Baber casually talked with me about pursuing a doctorate. I was stunned. He was the first person in my life who ever spoke to me as though that was a possibility. It was something I could do. Again, it's important to remember, I was **not** special. Dr. Baber approached all his students with equal respect and the idea that our potential was limitless. It is for those reasons that it is my honor to welcome our Keynote speaker, Dr. Lorenzo Baber.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

A Diversified Extended Education Portfolio

The power of collaboration in continuing education is never more evident than today. The time to invest in relationships with educational specialty providers is not when you *need* them, but instead on an ongoing basis. At School of Extended Learning (SXL) at Governors State University (GSU), we have found that our decision to partner with online training providers has provided stability in our operations during times of crisis, such as this COVID-19 pandemic.

SXL also partners with expert GSU faculty to deliver several courses and certificate programs, from Lean Six Sigma to cultural competency and holistic wellness. GSU faculty will always lead a large portion of our portfolio of training options. The institution offers an AACSB-accredited College of Business, a forward-thinking College of Arts and Sciences, where practical hands-on experience and technology merge, and Colleges of Health and Human Services and Education with strong roots in community-informed and evidence-based practice. SXL is an active partner with all four of these colleges in highlighting talented faculty, building off-campus cohorts, connecting with community partners, and getting both non-credit and for-credit programs approved by the Will County Workforce Board for funding by the Work Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). We have seen growth in the level of interest and recruitment leads from WIOA and are rapidly expanding program offerings.

Considering recent events, the power of extension cannot be disputed. We need each other, and continuing education departments can play a key role in broadening reach for their institutions. Our efforts to attract new students and engage Alumni, businesses and educational partners are featured in our new magazine, *Transitions*. Whatever stage our students are in life, SXL and our partners are here to make their next personal or professional transition happen.

The University of Illinois Springfield Continuing and Professional Education (CAPE) offers programs & services for professional development, training, CEUs, conferences, workshops, and certificate programs. We work with economic development organizations, chambers, employers, social service organizations, and educational partners.

In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, UIS is excited to offer a new microcredential for educators who work with Gifted Learners. *Knowing the Gifted Learner* is a 30-week, instructor-led, five-module course that provides K-12 educators licensed in Illinois a foundational understanding in teaching and leading advanced learners. The course is framed by the seven Teacher Preparation Standards from the National Association for Gifted Children. Social emotional learning topics are also covered.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will earn 96 Professional Development hours and a badge that will be included on their Illinois Professional Educator License. This program will be the first of many planned new specializations and microcredentials offered to teachers through the partnership.



Continuing and Professional Education
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prairie State College is seeking an instructor for customized training for the LabView software program. Referrals should be forwarded to: Alisha Clark, Manager, Business and Industry Partnerships Corporate and Continuing Education Direct: 708-709-7895 Email: aclark1@prairiestate.edu

The University of Illinois Springfield has a current opening for the Director of Admissions position.

Duties:

Responsible for proactively maximizing admission office human, financial, technological, and physical resources to achieve/exceed ambitious new student enrollment goals by creating awareness among, and, attracting, recruiting, admitting and enrolling various student demographics. The DA works to integrate admission and orientation efforts campus-wide into a sophisticated, comprehensive university EM plan, aligned with the UIS Strategic Compass, and system and institutional goals. The DA reviews and accesses internal and external policies, current or aspirational peers/competitors, and the development of new policies to ensure best practice and eliminate barriers to enrollment.

Leads and oversees efforts to hire, train, supervise, and support all staff. The DA creates standards for staff designed to give each prospective student (their family and those that serve them) optimal customer service in every (on- and off-campus or online) interaction, from awareness through the drop-add date. The DA assigns recruitment areas and approves planned outreach activities including school visits, college fairs, and presentations, and also serves as senior leader of the admissions committee, oversees a portfolio of prospective students, and plans domestic and international recruitment travel. The DA is the expert for, and shares expertise re: appeals and residency.

Develops a data-driven and integrated marketing communications environment by modeling proficiency, and training all staff in Slate to identify, define, and segment prospective student populations to deliver distilled, targeted and compelling messages to domestic and international families and gatekeepers, veterans, potential first-generation grads, prospective residents and students from historically underrepresented groups, and other current high school, community college and college/university students. The DA reviews and approves internal and external content in all mediums for accuracy and relevance, and leads and involves all staff in collecting, analyzing and presenting data to multiple constituencies in a variety of ways, including the production of the office annual report. The DA reports Return on Investment for social media reach, web traffic, events, and the success of phone, text, print, and e-mail campaigns, and uses predictive modeling to project future enrollment and qualify prospective students in each stage of the admission process to more closely identify those most likely to be a fit for, and succeed at UIS.

Demonstrates ability to be a strong and effective collaborator by creating and managing lasting partnerships and positive constituent relationships or projects in IL (especially in Chicago, Springfield and Peoria) primarily and secondarily in IA, IN, KY, MO and WI while empowering staff to do the same. The DA identifies and stewards innovative recruitment and outreach partnerships in schools, businesses, community organizations and other current/potential partners. The DA is present and visible in select communities as required.

Other related duties as assigned, including membership on various committees.

<https://jobs.uis.edu/job-board/job-details?jobID=115652&job=director-of-admissions>

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/IDEAS?

Suggestions for changes? Want to be a roving reporter and/or join the fun? Please let us know your thoughts about the ICCHE e-newsletter! How can it be improved? What types of information would you like to see included? Please forward comments or questions about this e-newsletter, and/or information for future issues to Teri Karpman at the address below.

Teri Karpman

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Stay Safe and Well!



SAVE THE DATE!

June 15-26, 2020 OLC Innovate Virtual Conference

November 17-20, 2020 OLC Accelerate, Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin, Lake Buena Vista, FL

We're on the Web!

www.icche.org

ICCHE LISTSERV

To send a message to all the people subscribed to the ICCHE Membership list, send an email to:

icchemembers@googlegroups.com

Note: You must be listed as a member of ICCHE in order to use the listserv.

