

Student Veterans Leadership Day - Bio's

Dan Wellman of IDVA invites Color-guard to present colors and pledge of allegiance

Dan Wellman, Administrator, Illinois State Approving Agency Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Dan Wellman has worked for the Illinois State Approving Agency – Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs since July 1998. The Department named him the Administrator of the Illinois State Approving Agency in November 2013. He retired from the Illinois Army National Guard in August 2007. During his 20 years of military service, Wellman, a combat wounded veteran, completed two extended periods of overseas active duty during Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Wellman also serves as an adjunct faculty history instructor at Robert Morris University in Peoria and Springfield.

Dan Wellman opens and welcomes everyone to Student Veterans Leadership Day – SVLD, introduces Dr. James Applegate, Executive Director Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), Dr. Applegate will make some opening remarks for SVLD and higher education

Dr. James L. Applegate, serves as the Executive Director for the Illinois Board of Higher Education

As the state higher education executive officer, Dr. Applegate leads efforts to dramatically expand college opportunity in Illinois, especially for low income, first generation, adult and students of color. He also works to increase higher education's contributions to Illinois' economic and civic health as part of advancing Illinois' Public Agenda.

Prior to assuming this position Jim served as Vice President for the Lumina Foundation, the largest U.S. foundation solely focused on improving higher education. In this role, he led in increasing the effectiveness of the Foundation's programs supporting achievement of "Goal 2025" to dramatically increase educational attainment in the U.S., especially for low income, first generation, minority, and adult students.

Jim led the entire program staff at Lumina developing new approaches to strategically invest Lumina's \$50 million grant budget. He also led Lumina's convening strategy designed to mobilize key constituencies across multiple sectors to support education improvement. Finally, he served as an advocate for improving higher education performance engaging in more than 40 keynotes and presentations annually before federal and state policy makers, higher education and business leaders, and philanthropic groups.

Prior to joining Lumina in 2008, he served as Senior Fellow and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Kentucky state higher education system office from 1999 through 2008. As chief academic officer in Kentucky, he coordinated statewide initiatives over the decade that resulted in Kentucky leading the nation in increasing college attainment.

Jim was a Professor of Communication at the University of Kentucky. From 1984 until 1999 he was Chair of that Department. During that period he also served as University Senate Chair and an American Council on Education Fellow. He serves on various national advisory boards for organizations engaged in education improvement. He was elected President of the National Communication Association, the world's largest association of communication scholars. His published research was recognized by various organizations for their contributions to his discipline. As a consultant, he has conducted over 250 seminars and workshops for corporate, academic and government organizations to improve communication policies and practices.

Jim earned his B.A from Georgetown College (KY) as well as an M.A. and Ph.D. as a University Fellow at the University of Illinois. His dissertation received the award given to the most outstanding dissertations completed in his field.

Opening Presenter Robert Blackwell – on Theme of Leadership

Robert Blackwell, Racial Equity Practice Liaison, Director's Office, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, U.S. Army veteran; he served as a Specialist 4th Class providing counseling services to enlisted men and women and their families

Served at:

Fort Polk, Louisiana
Fort Sam Houston, Texas with 326th Medical Battalion
Fort Campbell, Kentucky - 101st Airborne Division

Education:

Parkland Community College
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana - Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's in Social Work Administration

Work Experience

Springfield Urban League as a Counselor, Job Developer and Program Director
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), executive-level positions
Executive Director of the Springfield Public Housing Authority

Mr. Blackwell has over 15 years of consulting in human service administration, case management and race relations experience. He has worked as a Racial Equity Practice Liaison with the office of Regional Administrator of the Central Region of DCFS. He also oversees the Department's efforts to address race-based disparities experienced by children and families of color in the Illinois Child Welfare System. He also serves as the co-chair of the Springfield School District 186's Minority Recruitment Advisory Council, he is a Dominican Associate; serves as a member of the Springfield Dominican's Antiracism Team and as a member and officer of the Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism (SCoDR).

Speakers/Panelist for Legislative/Governmental

Panel Moderator: Illinois State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia

State Representative Chapa LaVia ILGA Bio

Resides in Aurora; Representative Linda Chapa LaVia represents the 83rd District, which includes Aurora, Montgomery, and North Aurora

University of Illinois at Chicago – Bachelor's degree and ROTC, Commissioned officer in the U.S. Army until 1993 Illinois National Guard until 1997. In college her leadership skills were enhanced as a cadet in ROTC, completing basic training in 1988 and serving as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army until 1993. She continued her service in the National Guard until 1998 and is currently on Inactive Ready Reserve.

As a veteran she is determined to make sure Illinois soldiers and veterans get the services and care they need. Linda has fought to protect needed funding for veterans' programs and she has supported new laws that hold the line on property taxes for veterans and make it easier for Illinois veterans to attend college. Linda has been a fierce advocate for education in Illinois as the chair of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee, where she was the chief sponsor of landmark education reform. Linda has been an advocate for improving education for all Illinois children. She served on numerous task forces aimed at improving the lives of Illinois residents including: Illinois Joining Forces Foundation, Commission for High School Graduation Achievement and Success, Enhance Physical Education Task Force, Teacher Recruiting and Retention Task Force, Task Force on Charter School Funding, and Young Adults Heroin Use Task Force. Linda brings her work ethic, energy and passion for community service to the job of State Representative. She is working to provide a voice in Springfield for all residents by working toward excellence in education, safer environments and quality healthcare for families and seniors. Linda and her husband have two daughters.

Panelist: Senator Antonio Munoz (D) - Previous General Assembly (93rd), 1st District, Years served: 1999 - Present

Committee assignments: Financial Institutions; Licensed Activities (Chairperson); Transportation; Public Pension Investments (Chairperson); Sen. Comm. Whole.

Chicago Police Officer; born February 18, 1964, in Chicago; Served in U.S. Army with the 82nd Airborne Division; City of Chicago-Mayor's License Commission, Local Liquor Control Section (1990); Dept. of Aviation; Mayor's Office of Budget & Management; member of Fraternal Order of Police; married (wife, Patricia), has three children.

Panelist: Representative Jerry F. Costello, II (D) - Previous General Assembly (97th), 116th District
Years served: July 2011-Present

Committee assignments: Consumer Protection; Tourism & Conventions; Agriculture & Conservation; Veterans' Affairs; Armed Forces & Military Affairs.

Financial Adviser, born February 13, 1969 in Belleville, IL; Graduate of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; Paratrooper with the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Desert Storm; former patrolman and assistant chief of police; member, Fraternal Order of Police, Laborers International Union of Northern America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans; attends St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Belleville; married to wife Lori; father of Jerry III, Victoria and Danielle.

Nathan Huff, a 8 1/2 year Veteran of US Army active duty service, began his service as a 19D1OD3 (Cavalry Scout, Bradley certified crew member), and later was reclassified as a 42F(Human Resource System Administrator) after which the Army deleted the MOS Identifier transferring him to a 42A2O (Human Resources Specialist). On May 25th 2013 he was honorably discharged at the rank of SGT. During his time in the Army he was stationed in Korea, Germany, Israel, and Alabama.

Since leaving the military he has been a full time student, who is actively working with Illinois State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, assisting her with legislation, referendums, and attending events supporting her in her duties as a Representative

Education Panel

Panel Moderator: Richard Tapia, Associate Director Diversity and Outreach, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

Richard is Navy veteran; serve one Tour of Duty in Vietnam with Seabees-CBMU 302 Action Team. He has served the IBHE for nine years at the state level in the area of Diversity and Outreach. He has also taught as an adjunct instructor at several community colleges in the Chicago area teaching Latino studies and served as a Faculty Associate for six-years at Northern Illinois University. He also founded and was executive director of Project Wheel, a not-for-profit organization working with youth in leadership development in Chicago for five-years. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America for two years. Richard comes from a military family, several members served in the Pacific and Europe during WWII still living, a brother in the Air Force that served in Germany for twenty five years. Richard has one son in college and is originally from San Antonio, Texas.

Panelist

Jess Ray, is also a proud graduate of the School of Infantry at Fort Benning Georgia. He joined the Illinois National Guard in 1987 and received his honorable discharge as a Sergeant in November of 1991. He was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 123rd Infantry.

Currently he serves as the University Registrar at Illinois State University. As the University Registrar he is responsible for the strategic direction, as well as the leadership and management of all programs, services, operations, budgets, and personnel in the Office of the University Registrar which includes the Veterans and Military Services office. He is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (AACRAO), and the Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (IACRAO) and has served as the President of IACRAO.

A native of Illinois, Jess, received his Bachelor and Master degrees from Illinois State University. His area of study was history. He has continued his education and has a Certificate in Technology/Project Management from Illinois State University and has attended the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education at Harvard University.

Amy Sherman, Associate Vice President for Innovation and Policy at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Amy promotes policy that will strengthen America's workforce through research, coalition-building, advocacy, and technical assistance to state and federal policy leaders. Amy is a national and international speaker on issues related to linking learning to work. Her diverse areas of expertise range from increasing degree completion through Prior Learning Assessments to building capacity at colleges and the workplace to better serve adult learners. Amy also leads CAEL's work to expand educational opportunities and success for veterans and military-affiliated students.

Amy earned her law degree with honors from Northwestern University School of Law. While serving as Dean of Students at Northwestern Law School, the Student Bar Association established an annual Amy Sherman Student Leadership Award. Amy practiced in the area of employment law at major law firms such as Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal. Prior to joining CAEL, Amy was Executive Director of the Manufacturing Workforce Development Project (MWDP), a project funded by the U.S. Dept. of Labor. Early in her career, Amy managed Emergency Services at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago and served as a financial caseworker at Cook County Hospital.

Lori McRea Keller, Associate Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences at McHenry County College. Her responsibilities include program development, faculty support, and oversight of fourteen academic departments at MCC. In spring of 2011, she co-authored the College's 2011-2016 Educational Master Plan, and is currently leading a task force to write the strategic plan for the Student Veterans Resource Center. Her work with student veterans has led to college grants and broad support from business, industry, and community leaders. Prior to her appointment as dean, Lori taught philosophy and English as an adjunct instructor for five years.

Ms. Keller served in both the first and second Clinton administrations. She was appointed Special Assistant to the Secretary of Commerce in 1993, and in 1996, was detailed to the White House office of Cabinet Affairs. Additionally, she was Commerce Department liaison to the David L. Boren National Security Education Program award committee, where program benchmarks were first developed. Her husband, Greg Keller, USAF (Ret.), served as Special Air Missions aircraft commander at Andrews Air Force base, and flew C-5 missions out of Dover AFB, DE.

Ms. Keller is a doctoral student in Higher Education Administration at Northeastern University in Boston, with expected dissertation defense in 2015. Lori holds an M.A. from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD, a B.A. in Business, and a B.A. in English from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA.

Steve MacInnes, served Air Force, Vietnam Veteran 7th Air Force and also a member of VFW. I spend 25 years in Corporate America working in Leadership roles for GE, Motorola and Philips. Prior to my current engagement I spent 10 years as Director of Admissions for two different schools. CEC and Kaplan, in my role I was Director of Military Admissions and worked with many soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq and other places around the world. My motto for my advisors and our team was "We Leave No Student Behind" and I live by that code. I am now currently the Director of Student Management for NTEC National Teachers Education Center a partner of NLU. I help find qualified students for the MAT ALT Licensure program. I have been doing that for the past two years. I am a father of three grown daughters' three grandchildren and a wonderful wife of 40 years.

Entrepreneurial/Business Panel

Moderator: Paul Knudtson, Director of Armed Services Relations - National Louis University

US Army, has been awarded numerous medals of achievement and commendation. Enlisted in 1995, served as a Combat Medic, Battle Staff Noncommissioned Officer and Observer Controller Trainer and achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class. In October of 2009, upon the recommendation of his Commanding Officer and several General Officers, Mr. Knudtson received a direct commission and was awarded the rank of Second Lieutenant. Qualifying as both an Intelligence and Civil Affairs Officer, he deployed to Afghanistan in 2010 where he served as commander of a Provincial Reconstruction Team Detachment in a remote part of southern Afghanistan significantly contributing to the development of governance, education, health and security of Shah Joy District of Zabul Province. His most recent assignment was as an intelligence planning officer in the future plans division of the Joint Special Operation Command.

Bachelor's of Philosophy from Northwestern University, a degree he completed while serving multiple deployments both overseas and across the United States. As a Student Veteran at Northwestern he founded and lead the Northwestern University Veterans Association and graduated summa cum laude. He continues seeking to improve the well-being of his fellow citizens by empowering, equipping and rallying Veterans as Strategic Assets while serving as an active member of the community on multiple boards and civic organizations.

Finally, and most importantly, Mr. Knudtson has been joyfully married to Nicole Knudtson for over 20 years. Together they have five amazing children: Vanessa (21), Nathaniel (18), Alexandra (16), Nicholas (12), and Genevieve (7).

Panelist

Nicole N. Mandeville, Director of the Women's Vetrepreneurship Program and Associate Director of Entrepreneurial Programs at Women's Business Development Center (WBDC), where she provides business counseling and coaching, technical assistance, financial analysis and training to start-up and emerging entrepreneurs. She specializes in assisting clients with all aspects of the entrepreneurship process and has expertise working with small businesses, nonprofits, childcare and municipalities and for the past year she has focused on working with veteran entrepreneurs.

Prior to WBDC, Nicole spent over 16 years in the banking and nonprofit industries working for companies such as BMO Harris Bank, IFF, JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America.

Nicole sits on the Board of Directors for Illinois Joining Forces Foundation (IJFF) and is the Women Veterans Working Group Chair of Illinois Joining Forces (IJF), which is a statewide network of organizations that provide services and support to the entire veteran community. She supports charitable giving by supporting nonprofits by serving on the host committee of Compassion, Fashion and Cocktails-which supported charitable giving to stop human trafficking and integrative cardiac health. Nicole served six years in the US Army Reserves with the 308th Civil Affairs Brigade and was deployed to Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Provide Comfort, "Persian Gulf War".

Brandon Bodor, COO of The Bunker, a business incubator focused on cultivating ventures led by military veteran entrepreneurs. Prior to The Bunker, Brandon was appointed by Governor Pat Quinn as executive director of the Serve Illinois Commission, administering the AmeriCorps program for the state of Illinois. A graduate of West Point, as well as the Army's Airborne and Ranger schools, Brandon served one tour each in Iraq and Afghanistan. He will complete his MBA at the University of Chicago in 2015, and continues to serve in intelligence as a Major in the US Army Reserve.

Community Based

Moderator: Kathy Engelken, Executive Director Illinois Campus Compact

Kathy Engelken, Executive Director for Illinois Campus Compact located in Chicago, Illinois which is hosted at DePaul University, Chicago. Forty-two Illinois colleges and universities make up the current membership. As Executive Director, Kathy is responsible to recruit new members, consult with Presidents, faculty, staff and students. She has served as the Executive Director for ILCC for fourteen years. Also serves on the SERVE ILLINOIS COMMISSION, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition and the Illinois Service Learning Advisory Committee, and the Illinois Joining Forces Education Committee.

She is integrating the IJF initiatives to “connecting student veterans from military service to community service.” Kathy is also on the White House Faith-Based Community Service Challenge Committee. She served at Rockford College for nine years where she held positions as the Catholic Campus Minister, the Dean of Students and the Vice President for Student Affairs, and developed the Community based Service-Learning program. She was the first director of the Community Service Programs Office, now known as the Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement.

Kathy is truly dedicated and speaks out about the vision she and others have for teaching civic engagement, citizenship and service-learning. Kathy has a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from the University of Northern Iowa and a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University in Chicago.

Panelist

Sheika Glenn was born in Union, SC. and received B.S. from South Carolina State University. She served in the US Army Reserves for 8 years. Sheika joined in 2006 after her freshman year of college. She is now enrolled at Adler University as a Doctor of Psychology student studying Clinical Psychology, with a concentration in Primary Care. Sheika is currently a Veteran intern serving a six month community service practicum at IL Campus Compact. Her goals are to practice psychology in the military as an officer. She enjoys singing and adventurous activities.

Albert “Donnie” Latuch III M.A., a 2nd year doctoral student of the Clinical Psychology, Military Psychology Track, at Adler University. Albert is also a former student extern at Illinois Campus Compact volunteering over 250 hours in a six month community service practicum. Donnie was asked to research, write, and present information regarding “The Student-Veteran Experience” at several venues in Illinois, Wisconsin, and at the Fourth Annual President’s White House Forum on Interfaith and Community Service Consortium in Washington D.C, in September of 2014. He is currently in a Neurodiagnostic externship with The Family Institute at Northwestern University. Donnie proudly served his country as a Non-Commissioned Officer in United States Marines (1989 – 1997) and Army (1997 – 2004). He was on active duty during Operation Desert Shield/Storm and later he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-2004).

Donnie has a Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology and has been a Licensed Masters Level Psychologist, by Temporary License (LMLP-T) in Kansas where he worked as a supervised mental health therapist in a partial hospital program in providing brief evidenced based therapy to service members returning from combat operations and veterans of previous wars. Later, Donnie was a therapist and team-leader of a homeless program in Wichita, Kansas, where he designed and implemented a successful residential treatment program which provided permanent housing and mental health services to severely and persistently mentally ill homeless individuals.

In the near future, Donnie hopes to utilize his unique status as both a combat veteran of two military branches, and future Doctor of Clinical Psychology to continue working with veterans and service members at Veterans Administration’s mental health treatment centers.

Riley M. Wright, a Volunteer Student Veteran Liaison at National Louis University and an Americorps VISTA with IL Campus Compact and SVA-IL to help student Veterans across the state of IL. During her 5 year military service in the US Army, Mrs. Wright has held various positions of increasing responsibility and has been awarded numerous medals of achievement and commendation. Enlisting in 2004, she served

as a Military Police Woman and within 11 months of arriving to her first duty station in 2005, deployed to Afghanistan for 12 months. After achieving the rank of Sergeant and within 10 months of arriving at her second duty station, she lead a team during a deployment to Iraq in May 2008 ending August 2009. Shortly after returning from Iraq, Mrs. Wright separated from the Army with an Honorable discharge to pursue her Bachelor's degree using the post 911 G.I. Bill and now holds a Bachelor's of Applied Behavioral Science with a minor in Criminal Justice from National Louis University. While at NLU she volunteered her time to help with the veterans program, advocating and helping fellow veterans locate and use resources meant to aid their success.

Bert Patania, M.Ed, CADC, Iraq War Combat Veteran, Intervention Team for Oak Park and River Forest Townships, CIT Instructor

Bert Patania first enlisted as a U.S. Army Paratrooper in the 1980's. He re-enlisted after 9/11 and was recruited into Special Operations in 2001. He was a Civil Affairs Sergeant in Operation Iraqi Freedom from January of 2003 through July of 2004.

Education

- Bachelors Degree in Instructional Design from Northeastern Illinois University
- Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University
- Addiction Counseling Certification from IAODAPCA

Bert Patania has been working in the field of social work since 1991, working with gang and drug involved youth and high-risk families at Gads Hill Settlement House in the Pilsen Community in Chicago. He has also worked in the West Town and Humboldt Park communities. Bert has worked as the Supervisor of an Intervention Team for Oak Park and River Forest Townships for the past 16 years.

Bert assisted in developing the Advanced Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program on Returning Veterans Issues for the Chicago Police Department and teaches on the use of multiple MTU's (mobile training units) in the state of Illinois. He also teaches a block of instruction on returning veterans issues which is now included in the Illinois Basic CIT curriculum for law enforcement for Illinois

Student Veteran Panel

Moderators:

Roman Ortega Jr., Director in Enrollment Management at Lewis University. The Director of Veterans Affairs and Recruitment is responsible for managing the recruitment, transition, retention and special needs of the veteran population and their dependents. As the Director he serves as the point person for veterans and collaboration with key staff within admissions, academic advising, financial aid, student services and registrar, etc. to ensure their smooth transition and progress toward graduation. Additionally, Roman serves as the Executive Director of Career Progression for Student Veterans of Illinois and Co-Chair of the Illinois Joining Forces Education Working Group. Roman also serves as a field grade officer with the rank of Major and has over 16 years of service in which he currently leads Operations Officer and Commander in the 11th Military Intelligence Battalion out of Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Roman Ortega Jr. is a native of Plainfield, Illinois and graduated from Plainfield High School in 1999. Roman Ortega's civilian education includes: Bachelors of Art Degree in Criminology, Northern Illinois University, 2003, Distinguished Military Graduate, 2003 and a Master's of Business Administration Degree in Finance, Lewis University, 2013.

Richard Tapia, Associate Director Diversity and Outreach, Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Richard is Navy veteran; served one Tour of Duty in Vietnam with Seabees-CBMU 302 Action Team. He has served the IBHE for nine years at the state level in the area of Diversity and Outreach. He has also taught as an adjunct instructor at several community colleges in the Chicago area teaching Latino studies and served as a Faculty Associate for six-years at Northern Illinois University. He also founded and was executive director of Project Wheel, a not-for-profit organization working with youth in leadership development in Chicago for five-years. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America for two years. Richard comes from a military family, several members served in the Pacific and Europe during

WWII still living, a brother in the Air Force that served in Germany for twenty five years. He also has one son in college and is originally from San Antonio, Texas.

Panelist:

Jason Memmen has been a student at McHenry County College (MCC) since the fall of 2014 and a key leader within the Student Veterans of America chapter on campus. He was appointed and sworn in as the Student Trustee this semester, representing all 10,000 plus students on the board that oversees the college. In addition to being a student, he is also in the Illinois Army National Guard and joining at the age of 17, serving for the past 11 years and counting. He has completed two combat tours in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. He has received numerous awards most notably the Army Commendation Medal and the Military Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal, his proudest achievement. Outside of MCC, Jason serves as the volunteer director of public affairs for the Supporting All Veterans Equally Foundation a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit; their mission connects military veterans and their families with the services and organizations that aid in making their civilian transition seamless.

Ethan Blumhorst, currently a student at Illinois State University majoring in Therapeutic Recreation. He is also a part of the VA work-study program at the school's Veterans and Military Services Office, where he assists students, faculty and staff with issues regarding transition, referral and VA education benefits. He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), 173D Airborne Brigade Association, Veterans at Illinois State University, SVA Chapter and Illinois State University Parks and Recreation Society (PARS). A native of Illinois, before joining the military Ethan worked as a carpenter throughout the St. Louis and Chicago metro areas, and is a graduate of the Belleville Fire Academy. After initial entry training as a combat medic, he graduated the United States Army Airborne School and served nearly five years with the 173D Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne). During two deployments in Afghanistan, he served as a senior medic and an Aid Station NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge).

Nathan Huff, a 8 1/2 year Veteran of US Army active duty service, began his service as a 19D1OD3 (Cavalry Scout, Bradley certified crew member), and later was reclassified as a 42F(Human Resource System Administrator) after which the Army deleted the MOS Identifier transferring him to a 42A2O (Human Resources Specialist). On May 25th 2013 he was honorably discharged at the rank of SGT. During his time in the Army he was stationed in Korea, Germany, Israel, and Alabama.

Since leaving the military he has been a full time student, who is actively working with Illinois State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, assisting her with legislation, referendums, and attending events supporting her in her duties as a Representative

Closing Comments:

Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board

Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, Executive Director for the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), joined the ICCB in 1999. Advancing from the position of Vice President of the ICCB to Executive Director in July 2013, Dr. Anderson is the first ICCB staff person to be selected for the permanent position of Executive Director. The other positions held by Dr. Anderson within the ICCB include, Vice President for Adult Education and Institutional Support, Senior Director for Student and Instructional Development, Director of Career and Technical Education, and Associate Director of Education to Careers. In these roles, Dr. Anderson has served as an administrator for nearly all the Board's functions in academic affairs, workforce development, adult education, education technology, career and technical education, and institutional research and policy studies.

Dr. Anderson's experience includes 15 years at ICCB, 11 years with campus administration, and 12 years teaching experience, for a total of over 37 years of educational experience. Prior to her work at the ICCB, Dr. Anderson was the principal and president of Ursuline Academy in Springfield; provost, registrar, and acting president of Springfield College in Illinois; assistant professor of English at Millikin University; and a professor and coordinator of the Bilingual Business Studies Program at Midway College.

Dr. Anderson has worked closely with many sectors, organizations, and committees of the community college system. She has also connected with such state and national groups as the Illinois Business Roundtable, the State Chamber of Commerce, Women Employed, Jobs for the Future, and the Center for Law and Social Policy. As part of the ICCB executive staff she has developed critical relationships with the General Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the Governor's Office.

In addition to her relationships with State government, Dr. Anderson has also fostered relationships with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and the White House through her involvement with the College Opportunity Summit, where she was one of only a few state higher education representatives invited, and with the offices of Senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin concerning other higher education initiatives that concern Illinois and the United States.

Dr. Anderson received her M.A. in English and Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Anderson is also the author of an ESL college-level textbook. In November, 2010, Dr. Anderson received an award from the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators, recognizing her outstanding service to the community college system. She speaks four languages and has two sons.