Professional Development and Training

Professional development and training are dominant areas of activity in the institute. The institute contributes to more efficient, professional delivery of services to Illinois citizens by educating employees in critical aspects of their jobs. In 1997, the institute continued its tradition of providing numerous training programs for Illinois state government units and private-sector, service-oriented professional organizations, but the highlight of its professional development and training activities was the national LINKS conference. From May 1 to May 4, the IPA hosted the prestigious fifth annual conference on the links between public universities and state capitals.

A police officer runs a sobriety field test on a volunteer as part of a DUI training program.

Training Programs and Seminars

Illinois law enforcement, social services, and education departments are just a few of the constituencies that have come to rely on the institute's ability to train service providers. Two examples are training programs that the Center for Legal Studies (CLES) developed and delivered for Illinois State Board of Education and for the Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) /Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

For the third consecutive year, the CLES provided a series of **Judicial and State's Attorney/Prosecutor DUI Seminars** for the DASA/IDOT. These institute-designed seminars offer the Illinois judiciary and state's attorneys and prosecutors current, practical information on DUI-related offenses and the DUI process. Topics covered include sentencing and rehabilitation options for DUI offenders.

New in 1997 is the CLES' **Impartial Special Education Hearing Officer Training and Evaluation Program** conducted through an arrangement with the Illinois State Board of Education. This project delivers training and evaluation services to the board's Impartial Special Education Hearing Officers. The officers exclusively hear cases involving students being served by special education programs. Components of the project include an initial 3 1/2-day mandatory training for new hearing officers with follow-up one-day sessions quarterly. A three-member team is providing ongoing evaluation of the hearing officers.

IPA Training Programs and Seminars in 1997

DCCA Career Specialist Project

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA)

The center helped develop an academic course sequence that combines a customized curriculum, distance learning technology, and a multidisciplinary faculty. The course offers educational alternatives to professionals employed in the Illinois Workforce Preparation Programs. Graduates of the program earn 12 hours of academic credit from UIS.

Programs and Seminars cont.

The DUI Training Program

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: DASA

Since 1988, the center has trained DUI evaluators, risk education providers, and substance abuse treatment professionals about the laws, testing procedures, and evaluation methods of DUI defendants.

Employment Specialist Studies

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: DCCA

Faculty selection and curriculum development is underway for this program that will train work force development professionals at UIS and an Oak Brook campus via distance learning technology.

Impartial Special Education Hearing Officer Training and Evaluation Program

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: Illinois State Board of Education

This program trains and evaluates hearing officers.

Kane County Detention Training

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: Kane County

The project provided a state-mandated weeklong training program for staff at a newly constructed juvenile detention center.

Officer Safety Training

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

This two-day training program for probation officers throughout the state was produced by nationally recognized trainers contracted through the American Probation and Parole Association.

Video Training and Internet Training

The institute depends on faculty and staff of the Television Office to supplement many professional development and training workshops with dynamic videotape segments. But, the office also produces stand-alone training videotapes for professional organizations. This year, the Television Office expanded its services to include internet training and video production training. The office produced a **Water Sampling Training Video** for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The tape teaches volunteers the correct way to collect lake water samples for testing. The unit also developed and conducted an **Inservice Training Program on Internet Research and Publishing** for the faculty of PORTA Junior High School in Petersburg, Illinois. Finally, the staff passed on its expertise by providing a **Video Production Training Program** to personnel from the Clark County, Nevada, Parks and Recreation Department.

Professional Development Workshops

In fiscal year 1997, IPA faculty and staff continued their traditional complement of workshops and seminars designed to help Illinoisans keep pace with their changing political environment. **The Illinois Legislative Process: How it Really Works** seminar, directed by Jack Van Der Slik of the institute's Illinois Legislative

The Third House: Workshop on Lobbying brings lobbyists and academics together for an in-depth review of the profession.

Studies Center (ILSC), is just one example. This one-day seminar—specifically geared toward newcomers to Illinois politics, state workers, lobbyists, community activists, and students—offered participants vital information on the inner workings of the Illinois legislature.

The ILSC also presented its annual **The Third House: Workshop on Lobbying**, a seminar geared toward Illinois lobbyists that brings academics and lobbying professionals together for an in-depth review of lobbying. Through lectures, expert presentations, and hands-on, small group workshops, lobbyists, lobbyists in training, legislative liaisons, public affairs representatives, and members of the media learn the time-tested skills that have proven effective for lobbying members of the General Assembly.

For 18 students—most of whom work for state government agencies—the institute's Central Office sponsored the **Introduction to Geographic Information Systems Workshop**, which covered fundamental concepts of cartography and geographic information systems (GIS). The workshop, designed for those with no prior background in GIS, map analysis, or computer cartography, outlined the basics of geo files and attribute files, choropleth mapping, layering, dot-density mapping, buffering functions, and geocoding.

ILSC Director Jack Van Der Slik delivers a lecture during his faculty exchange at Heilongjiang University in China.

workshops

Programs and Seminars cont.

Probation Training '97

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

Seven courses, designed to meet a statutory mandate for staff training, were offered to approximately 190 adult and juvenile probation officers and juvenile detention center staff from throughout the state outside Cook County.

Judicial and State's Attorney/ Prosecutor DUI Seminars

Unit: CLES

Partner/Funder: DASA/IDOT

This is an ongoing series of DUI seminars for state's attorneys prosecutors, and members of the judiciary.

Training of Representatives of the Beijing City Government

Unit: The institute's Central Office

Partner/Funder: The Executive Development Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The IPA planned, coordinated, and delivered a classroom training component designed for representatives from Beijing, China, city government who were responsible for establishing a research and training center for public administrators. Faculty from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA) assisted with the program.