Message from the **Executive Director**

The Institute for Public Affairs completed another successful year. At the start of the fiscal year, on July 29, 1997, the institute received the Governmental Research Association's 1997 national award for the Most Effective Citizen Education Project for the institute's report "Tainted Democracy: How Money Distorts the Election Process in Illinois and What Must Be Done to Reform the Campaign Finance System." The award recognized the research and leadership of Kent Redfield, associate director of the Illinois Legislative Studies Center, and Ed Wojcicki, *Illinois Issues* publisher, on The Joyce Foundation-funded Illinois Campaign Finance Project. The project was co-chaired by former U.S. Senator Paul Simon and former Illinois Governor William Stratton.

This year also saw the startup of the new Regional Institute for Community Policing (RICP) on the UIS campus. The RICP provides training, education, and technical assistance to policing agencies and communities throughout the state. It is a partnership effort between the Illinois State Police, the University of Illinois, and the Illinois Council for Prevention of Violence.

In partnership with the White House and the Illinois Humanities Council, we were pleased to be the Illinois host for the Millennium Project lectures, a project organized by the White House to encourage Americans to reflect on the past and imagine the future. It consists of a series of 12 lectures given over a three-year period featuring the nation's leading scholars. Lectures presented at the White House are transmitted by satellite and the Internet. Only one site per state picks up the satellite feed.

New research projects in the Center for Legal Studies included a contract from the Illinois State Police to develop and conduct an evaluation of its community policy initiatives and a competitive grant from the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the archival data maintained by various agencies are accessible, reliable, valid, and of sufficient quality to be used for research on juvenile sex offenders. Our Survey Research Office, in conjunction with our Illinois Legislative Studies Center, conducted a statewide telephone survey of Illinois residents regarding their attitudes about democracy and their attitudes toward national, state, and local government.

Illinois Issues co-sponsored two forums for legislators and their staffs during the 1998 spring legislative session on the subject of regionalism and published a series of provocative, in-depth articles on the topic. WUIS/WIPA continued its coverage of Statehouse issues, while receiving a National Telecommunications and Information Agency grant to update its broadcast production and control equipment. The Television Office produced a video for the Illinois Association of Minorities in Government recognizing that organization's ten-year history of achievement.

During the year we conducted successful searches for a new director of the Television Office and faculty to teach in our new Doctor of Public Administration (DPA) degree program and hold joint appointments in the institute. We are pleased to welcome Jo Warfield as director of the Television Office, Willa Bruce as director of the DPA program, and Patria De Lancer Julnes and Patricia Byrnes as DPA and institute faculty.

Please read this report to learn of other IPA accomplishments for 1998. The coming year promises to be equally interesting and productive due to the efforts of our faculty, staff, and students and to the assistance of our outside clients, sponsors, underwriters, and partners.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Ford