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.

Training Programs and Seminars

The Illinois State Police, the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, and the Illinois State Board of Education are just a few of the constituencies that have come to rely on the institute's ability to train and certify workforce professionals.

An outstanding example of the effort to provide top-quality training is the recent formation of the **Regional Institute for Community Policing (RICP).** Funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant to the Illinois State Police and a subcontract to UIS through the IPA, the RICP provides comprehensive and innovative training, education, and technical assistance to the region's policing agencies and organizations.

The RICP organized the state's first community policing conference in Bloomingdale.

IPA Training Programs and Seminars

The Career Specialist Training Program
Unit: CLES
Partner/Funder: DCCA

The CLES has developed and administers this twelve-hour course sequence for workforce development professionals.

DUI Seminars for Court Personnel
Unit: CLES
Partner/Funder: IDOT

The CLES designed this seminar series for state attorneys and the judiciary involved in DUI-related activities in their respective districts. The seminars provide comprehensive information on DUI rules, policies, and current sentencing practices in Illinois court districts.

DUI Training Program
Unit: CLES
Partner/Funder: Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

In a long-term project conducted since 1988, the CLES trains DUI evaluators, risk education providers, and substance abuse treatment professionals about the law, rules, regulations, testing, and evaluation methods with DUI defendants. This is a state-mandated professional training program.

Economic Developer Certification Education Project

Unit: Central Office
Partners/Funder: DCCA

The Central Office and the UIS Office of Business and Management Development have developed this program that prepares selected DCCA staff and others for professional certification through the American Development Council's Certified Economic Developer Exam.

Employment Specialist Academic Program

Unit: CLES
Partner/Funder: DCCA

The CLES developed and delivered this customized curriculum for workforce development professionals. This curriculum offered workforce development professionals the opportunity to pursue college undergraduate and graduate level course credit using UIS distance learning compressed video technology.

Impartial Due Process Hearing Officer Training and Evaluation

Unit: CLES
Partner/Funder: Illinois State Board of Education

The CLES developed and delivered a week-long mandatory training to qualified hearing officers who conduct special education due process hearings in Illinois. Additionally, a three-person team evaluated the hearing officers.

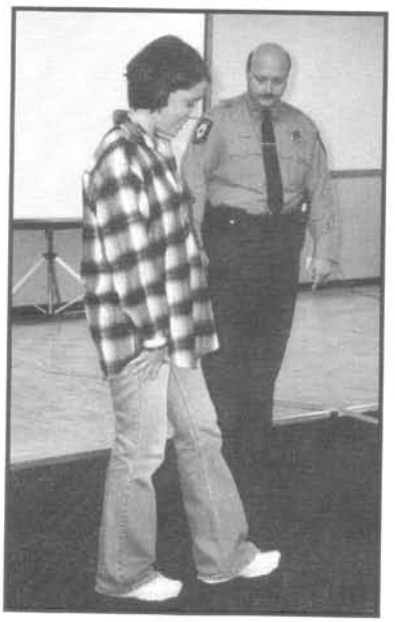
The CLES's Carol Esarey presents an award to a graduate of the Career Specialist Program.

It is a partnership effort between the state police, the University of Illinois, and the Illinois Council for Prevention of Violence. UIS houses the program's staff and director. During the 1998 fiscal year, the RICP delivered 38 training programs, totaling 21,922 training hours, to state police, local police and sheriff department officers, and representatives of community groups.

The DCCA entrusts the IPA's Center for Legal Studies (CLES) to develop and administer its **Career Specialist Training Program**. UIS offers a twelve-credit-hour course sequence called Career Specialist Studies. The sequence has been especially designed for workforce development professionals. The program offers adult learners the opportunity to participate in a nontraditional academic initiative, combining a customized curriculum and a multi-disciplinary faculty. The Career Specialist Studies course sequence includes:

- Understanding and Utilizing Labor Market and Career Information Resources
- Occupational Test Application, Interpretation, and Analysis
- Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Case Management Skills for the Career Specialist

Since May 1996, over 50 students have completed this course sequence, using state-of-the-art compressed video technology to three sites: UIS, the University of Illinois Office of Statewide Programming in Oak Brook, and the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market in Herrin, Illinois. In fiscal year 1999, the course sequence will be available to students via the Internet.



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

Professional Development Workshops

In fiscal year 1998, IPA faculty and staff continued their traditional complement of workshops and seminars designed to help some Illinois health care providers, peace officers, policymakers, and even legislators keep up to date with information and new job skills related to their professions.

The IPA's Central Office and the UIS Gerontology Program sponsored the **Law and Aging Workshop** to help health care providers and senior advocates understand the role of law in everyday issues related to aging. The program helped participants interpret legal materials (statutes and cases) and assess their impact on issues of aging.

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts asked the CLES to expand the skills of the state's probation officers by offering a workshop called **Officer Safety Training: Verbal Judo.** More than 40 people attended this two-day program given by a nationally recognized trainer.

In 1998, the Illinois Legislative Studies Center (ILSC) continued its tradition of providing workshops to the state's lobbyists and legislative staffers. Recognizing that politics attracts new interest groups every year, the ILSC has developed the **Legislative Processes Seminar** to teach participants about how the General Assembly works and about how to work with the General Assembly. The **Lobbyist Workshop** is an annual event for both the neophyte and seasoned lobbyist. The all-day workshop features presentations by professional lobbyists on new and different ways to help lawmakers get the messages lobbyists are trying to send.

Finally, thanks to a grant from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, *Illinois Issues* magazine was able to open up a new and long-overdue discussion of **Regionalism in Illinois.** During the 1998 spring legislative session, the magazine along with the Metropolitan Planning Council of Chicago sponsored two forums for legislators and their staffs. One dealt with transportation, the other with "smart growth" for Illinois regions.

Probation Training '98

Unit: CLES
Partner/Funder: Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts

This project provided a one-week training program for probation officers throughout the state outside Cook County. The training is designed to meet a statutory mandate for probation and juvenile detention center staff training. Seven courses were offered this year to approximately 190 adult and juvenile probation officers and juvenile detention center staff.

Regional Institute for Community Policing

Unit: Central Office
Partners/Funder: Illinois State Police, University of Illinois, Illinois Council for Prevention of Violence, U.S. Department of Justice

The RICP provides comprehensive and innovative training, education, and technical assistance to the region's policing agencies and organizations.