

# IEA SP StudentSpeak

I L L I N O I S E D U C A T I O N A S S O C I A T I O N S T U D E N T  
P R O G R A M

## UPCOMING DATES:

November 2- Don't forget to  
Vote!

November 5- IEA-RA Delegate  
Nominations Due

November 19-20- IEA-SP Fall  
Conference- Bloomington, IL

November 30- IEA-SP Grant  
Applications Due

December 8- IEA-RA Student  
Delegate Ballots Due

January 22- IEA Spring Advi-  
sory Board- Springfield

January 31- IEA SP mini  
resumes due

## An Update from Your Chairperson

The year is in full swing and our program is off to a wonderful start! We currently have more than 1200 members state wide. That is more than 200 more than we had last year at this time! With a strong membership, we see strong chapters who are truly encompassing the three pillars: teacher quality, political action, and community outreach. I have already heard of many successful meetings! Who would have thought that you could have a social where you decorate cookies like NIU did? We've also seen successful local elections at EIU, SIUE, UIUC, and others. Congrats to ISU for a successful fall conference as well.

We also had a very successful Advisory Board meeting in Bloomington September 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a record turnout, 51 people from 14 campuses, and the chapters left with a lot of very useful resources which I can't wait to see used at each of the campuses! Keep up the great work and I hope to see you at the IEA SP Fall Conference on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>! Register now at [www.ieasp.org](http://www.ieasp.org)!



Christle Kiely- IEA SP Chairperson



Presenters and attendees at  
ISU's Fall Conference!

**The Scoop on Local Chapters Featuring ISU and Millikin!!**  
ISU Happenings- On September 25<sup>th</sup> the Illinois State University Student Education Association hosted a conference for local members to attend. We tried to bring in a wide variety of speakers so that our members could all benefit from at least one session at any given time. Some of the topics that were discussed included student teaching, "what if..." scenarios, how to integrate ELL and ESL into the classroom, what is the IEA, and First Year Teacher 101. Overall this conference was very beneficial for our members, and everyone in attendance felt like they had gained more knowledge afterwards. The Executive Board did a great job pulling it all together and making it a big success! We look forward to doing more professional development activities in the future, and hope that you will join us!

Becca Suerth- ISU SEA President

## THE SCOOP CONTINUED...

### TAKE A LOOK AT MILLIKIN

They say that change is inevitable, and at this point, I can't say that I disagree. Millikin University's IEA program is in the current process of re-engineering our chapter. MU's chapter was struggling to keep people involved and lacked a sense of direction. This year's new executive board is changing all of that around.

At the beginning of the year we focused on membership. We went to each one of Millikin's education classes and gave speeches to them talking about the many benefits that the IEA Student Program can offer them. We had a great turn out for our first meeting and provided ice-breakers for people to become more comfortable with one another. Since then, we have put in place a revolutionary incentive program for our members. For every meeting they come to and for every two service or fellowship events they attend, they are entered into a raffle for a \$75 gift card to be drawn at our end of the semester celebration party. At this event we will be rewarding those members who have been active in our chapter with a certificate of involvement to be placed in their portfolio and they will also receive the additional chances to win free prizes.

In the meantime, we have at least one fellowship event (a chance to get to know one another and just hang out) and at least one service event every month. So far, we have had a service project with Big Brothers Big Sisters, where kids who had not yet been paired with a mentor came and played games and had a healthy snack with our IEA members. This allowed us to work on the community outreach pillar. Our fellowship event for last month was kickball on the quad. We all had a great time and it was a free event open to campus.

This week we will be working on the IEA SP pillar of political action. Members will be hosting a phone-a-thon for IEA sponsored state senate candidate, Tim Dudley. He will also be coming to speak to our chapter in early October. We are learning more and more that political involvement is necessary for our future careers. Money is always an issue, but with teachers retiring and college graduates not being hired, class sizes are growing and education quality will be affected. Not to mention all of the IEA students that are currently preparing for a job in education will be hoping for jobs that are not available.

We've come a long way already, but the work is not yet finished. Our goal is to simply keep busy and keep involvement up. We have two large events in the process of being implemented. In mid-November we will be hosting an "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader" competition. Decatur Public Schools will be asked to come and be involved and proceeds will benefit a non-profit organization to be determined at a later date. This will be an opportunity for our members to have some fun and network with current teachers, while raising money for a cause. Next semester we will be hosting a fancy dinner for outstanding teachers. We will have a speaker and give appreciation to our favorite teachers who have inspired us to do great things.

For Millikin, all that was needed to build our chapter was involvement and an exec board ready to be open to new ideas. If your chapter is struggling, set new goals, get people involved, set up opportunities that you would want to go to. Try out new ideas. If you don't hope for better, if you don't plan for more, you'll never get any better. Start today with an open mind and make a new ending. You can't change the past, but each day is an opportunity to start over again.

## STAY INFORMED: POLITICAL ACTION UPDATE

With this year being an election year for Illinois, it is important for us as future educators to take the time and familiarize ourselves with the candidates. The IEA is a bi-partisan association which has a formal process for making recommendations. The candidates are interviewed and then these interviews are used to help bring a recommendation as to which candidates will be supported to the IEA Board of Directors for a vote. This year, IEA has endorsed Pat Quinn for Illinois Governor and Alexi Giannoulas for U.S. Senate.



Quinn and Brady, the two candidates for Governor, have completely different ideas on how to handle some of the major issues affecting our state. Quinn supports the idea of increasing revenue to help meet the needs of all Illinoisans, including teachers and their students. Brady, on the other hand, refuses to consider new revenue. Instead, he is proposing cuts across the board, including deeper cuts in education. What’s the problem with this? Schools need better funding to maintain quality education as well as keep class sizes smaller. Quinn is also an advocate for the current pension systems in Illinois while Brady plans to make substantial changes to them. Educators do not receive social security which means we rely on our pensions as a source of income once we retire. Brady is also in favor of having Illinois become a right to work state. Currently, teachers have the ability to negotiate school conditions and curriculum. This could change if Brady takes away our right to collective bargaining.

In the case of the U.S. Senate race, the IEA has decided to support Giannoulas because he supports the proposed income tax increase by Quinn. This would help make school funding more equitable across the state. In the past, IEA supported Kirk for congressman; however, recently, the IEA and Kirk have found themselves going in different directions.

I encourage you to take some time to inform yourself on the candidates for each of the races. Big changes are going to have to happen in order to save our state. Make sure you have your say in who you want making those changes.

Aaron Porzelius–

IEA SP Political Activist

Christle Kiely– IEA SP Chairperson



*“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different than other men.”*  
 -Lyndon B. Johnson

**CHECK US OUT AT:  
WWW.IEASP.ORG**



The IEA Student Program is a preprofessional organization of undergraduate and graduate students preparing for careers in education. As a member of the IEA Student Program, students are also a part of the larger Illinois Education Association, an educational professional organization representing more than 130,000 members in the state. IEA Student Program members are also part of the National Education Association, a network of state associations that has more than three million members and is a major force in shaping the nation's education agenda.

More than 50 campuses in the state have local members of the IEA Student Program. Students throughout the state on university and college campuses are able to take advantage of the many opportunities through the IEA Student Program.

**Want to write for the next edition of the Student Speak?**

Contact Laura Hofer, IEA SP Public Relations Coordinator, at LD-Hofer@wiu.edu.

**Want more information about the IEA Student Program?**

Contact Meredith Byers, IEA SP Director, at 217 321 2312.