



IBEA *REPORTS* *NEWSLETTER*

ILLINOIS BUSINESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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A Message From Your President

Hello IBEA Members,

I hope your 2025–2026 school year is off to an excellent start. Hopefully, each of you were able to achieve a “factory reset” over the summer and are now fully recharged for a year of fun and learning with your bright students. As we all know, that time to reset is essential—because once school is in session, it’s go, go, go for the next several months. Between staff meetings, parent/student meetings, prepping for evaluations, grading, lesson planning, coaching, leading CTSOs, and, of course, what we truly set out to do: TEACHING, our plates are full. And none of that even accounts for our families or personal time. As we begin this new school year, remember to take the time you need to be the best version of yourself. We must keep our own cup filled so we can continue pouring into each of our students.



Heather Borowiak
IBEA President

One way to both fill your cup and expand your toolbox of teaching strategies is by attending the 2025 IBEA Annual Fall Conference, November 5–7, 2025. The conference will once again be held at The Abraham Lincoln Springfield – A DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Talk with your administrator and secure funding now so you don’t miss out—registration is already open! President-Elect Allison Ferguson and the Conference Planning Committee are finalizing plans to provide an engaging experience for all attendees. This year’s theme is Empowering Future-Ready Educators. The conference is always an excellent opportunity to network with fellow business teachers and professionals, participate in workshops on business and technology topics, meet with vendors, and more. If you would like to present at the conference, please see page 12. If you would like to assist Ally with conference planning in other ways, please reach out to her.

We are also continually seeking ways to improve communication. If you have changed schools this year and have a new email, please let me know so we can ensure you continue to receive important information. If you are not yet part of our digital membership and would like to be, please fill out [this form](#). And if you have a new business teacher in your department, we would love to hear about them so we can reach out and welcome them.

I wish each of you a successful year and look forward to seeing you this fall. Thank you for all you do as educators and for your continued support of our organization.

Heather Borowiak
2024-2025 IBEA President

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IBEA is on Instagram!

For those of you who have an Instagram account, follow @illinoisibea. If you do not have an Instagram account, you can still see posts and updates without signing up by simply going to the illinoisibea page on Instagram!

The direct URL to the IBEA
Instagram page is:
www.instagram.com/illinoisibea

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IBEA Board Briefs

The Illinois Business Education Association (IBEA) is excited to share several important opportunities and initiatives for members and students as we look ahead to the 2025–26 school year.

Conference Scholarship Opportunity

The Dora J. Beattie IBEA Conference Scholarship is awarded annually to a student member of IBEA who attends the Fall Conference. Students planning to attend are encouraged to apply for this \$400 scholarship, which will be presented at Friday's closing session. More information about applying is available on the IBEA website. For questions, contact Rod McQuality at ibea@ibea.org.



Rod McQuality
IBEA Executive
Director

Call for Board Candidates

IBEA is seeking candidates to serve on its Board of Directors. The following representative positions are currently open:

- Chicago (CBEA) Representative
- Northern Illinois (NIBEA) Representative
- Western Illinois (WIABEA) Representative
- Central Illinois (CIBEA) Representative
- South Western (SWABEA) Representative

Each position carries a three-year term as a voting member of the board. Board members are expected to attend two annual meetings—in April and at the Fall Conference—and assist with roles tied to the conference.

Additionally, IBEA is seeking a Parliamentarian to serve as an ex-officio (non-voting) board member. Interested individuals should contact Lacy Bugielski, IBEA Immediate Past President, at pastpres@ibea.org.

New Partnership Programs Announced

To further connect K-12 education with higher education and industry, IBEA is proud to introduce two new partnership programs launching in the 2025–26 school year.

- **University Partnership Program:** This initiative creates a platform for IBEA to share the ways our members prepare students for career success, while universities provide valuable insight into the skills they seek in incoming students. IBEA is proud to welcome its inaugural Gold Level University Partners: Millikin University and Illinois Institute of Technology/Stuart School of Business.
- **Business Partnership Program:** Designed to foster collaboration between educators and industry, this program connects IBEA members with businesses dedicated to improving workforce readiness. Our inaugural Business Membership Level Partners include:
 - Certiport, a Pearson VUE Business
 - National Geographic Learning/Cengage
 - W!se (Working in Support of Education)

IBEA is committed to expanding these programs to strengthen connections that support student success in both higher education and the workforce. Members who know of potential university or business partners are encouraged to reach out to Rod McQuality at ibea@ibea.org.

Together, these opportunities and partnerships reflect IBEA's ongoing mission to support business education professionals and enhance opportunities for students across Illinois.

Call for Board Candidates

BOARD VACANCIES



- President Elect
- Parliamentarian
- Affiliate Representatives:
 - Chicago Area
 - Central Illinois
 - Northern Illinois
 - Southwestern Area
 - Western Illinois Area

We are looking for business educators to join our Board of Directors!

Requirements:

- Current IBEA Member
- Ability to commit to a 3-year term (President elect moves to President for year two, then Past President)
- Ability to attend 2 board meetings each year (April & November)

Benefits:

- Contribute to Illinois Business Education!
- Personal growth & leadership
- Friendly and supportive team

Interested?

Email IBEA Past President, Lacy Bugielski
pastpres@ibea.org

IBEA Scholarship Information

The **Dora J. Beattie Undergraduate Scholarship**

was established to encourage outstanding college business students to specialize in business education training. The purpose of the award is to provide scholarships to undergraduate students who are actively pursuing business teacher education careers at Illinois schools. This scholarship is intended to provide financial aid for the recipient's undergraduate study, ideally for an accredited business education program of their choice in Illinois. Junior undergraduate students could be eligible to receive a \$5,000 scholarship, and Senior undergraduate students could be eligible to receive a \$10,000 scholarship!

The **Dora J. Beattie IBEA Conference Scholarship** is awarded to a student member of IBEA. If you are planning to attend IBEA's annual conference, you are eligible for a Dora J. Beattie Conference Scholarship. This year, up to ten scholarships will be awarded based on the scholarship committee's discretion.



Dora J. Beattie

The **Gloria Bousley Graduate Scholarship** was established to provide scholarships to IBEA member graduate students who are actively pursuing business teacher education careers and are specializing in business education at the master's degree level in an Illinois state-approved teacher education program. The scholarship awards up to \$2,500 for outstanding graduate student(s) specializing in business education.

When there is a graduate program offering a master's degree in business education, IBEA will award the full \$2,500.

If there is not an approved program in Illinois, IBEA will award up to \$500 for an approved certification, endorsement, or post-baccalaureate that includes advanced study for a master's degree.



Gloria Bousley

**Scholarship applications were due June 15!
Visit www.ibea.org for an application and more information!**

Now Accepting 2025 IBEA Awards Nominations!

- Distinguished Service
- Educator of the Year (Middle School, Secondary, and Collegiate)
- Supervisor/Administrator of the Year
- Professional Recognition
- Outstanding New Professional
- Friend of IBEA
- Research
- Writers' Hall of Fame

Nominations due by September 26, 2025.

**Winners honored at the 63rd Annual IBEA Conference
November 5 - 7, 2025 | Springfield, IL**

**Questions? Email Beth Terpstra
awards@ibea.org**

**Nominate on the
[IBEA website!](http://www.ibea.org)**



**63rd Annual
Illinois Business Education Association Fall Conference
Registration Form**
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, November 5-7, 2025
President Abraham Lincoln—a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Springfield, Illinois

Full Name: _____ Your Preferred Name: _____
 Address: _____ School Name: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Teaching Level: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 County in which You Live: _____ County in which You Teach: _____

Are you interested in serving as a breakout session chairperson?
 Yes Not at this time

Please mark your Illinois affiliate:
 CABEA CBEA CIBEA EIBEA
 MIBEA NIBEA PABEA SIBEA SWABEA WIABEA

Please mark all that are appropriate:
 First-Timer Retired Student Past President

New Teacher? (1-3 Years):
 1st Year 2nd Year 3rd Year

Are you a member of NBEA?
 Yes No

Early-Bird Registration—Postmarked by October 18, 2025		Membership Dues (if not already paid)	
Professional IBEA Member	\$225	IBEA Professional / IBEA & IACTE	\$45 / \$105
Retired IBEA Member	\$165	IBEA Student	\$10
Student IBEA Member	\$100	IBEA Retired	\$10
Non-IBEA Member	\$375	IACTE Student	\$15
Retired Past President of IBEA	\$225	IACTE Retired	\$30

Regular Registration — Postmarked after October 18, 2025		Certipoint will offer the following free certification exams with conference registration. Exams are 50 minutes long and begin promptly. Please mark which exam(s) you wish to take.	
Professional IBEA Member	\$275	Communication Skills for Business (CSB)	Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB)
Retired IBEA Member	\$165	IC3 Digital Literacy	Intuit Certified User (QuickBooks)
Student IBEA Member	\$100	IT Specialist	Microsoft Office Specialist
Non-IBEA Member	\$375	Unity Certified User	Project Management Institute
TOTAL (if paying by check)		Certification Testing Registration is Limited. Testing Registration Deadline is October 30, 2025.	

Meal Functions — Please mark the meals you plan on attending		Certification Testing Registration is Limited. Testing Registration Deadline is October 30, 2025.	
Thursday Brunch (opening session)		Wed Evening (5:30 pm)	Wed Evening (6:45 pm)
Friday Breakfast Buffet		Thurs Morning (8:00 am)	Thurs Afternoon (2:45 pm)
Friday Lunch (closing sessions and awards)			Thurs Afternoon (3:55 pm)

Register online at www.ibea.org when using a credit card.
 If paying by check, please return this completed REGISTRATION form with your check made payable to
Illinois Business Education Association
 and mail to the attention of:
 Josh Ebbert
 6427 N. Oakbrook Ct.
 Peoria, IL 61614

Fall Conference Detailed Overview

Join us November 5-7, 2025, at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield—A Doubletree by Hilton Hotel for the 63rd Annual IBEA Fall Conference! A short drive from Interstate 55 and located in downtown Springfield, your overnight stay includes overnight parking in the garage and offers an onsite restaurant, free WiFi, a digital key, and more!

To reserve your room, click [here](#) or call and reference IBEA.

This year's conference will feature:

- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Rachael Mahmood, Illinois Teacher of the Year
- Silent Auction
- Opportunity to earn up to 12 PD credit hours
- Networking Opportunities

2025 Fall Conference Registration Fees:

To ensure you receive the Early Bird Registration Fee, submit your online registration by October 18, 2025. Registration is now open! Secure funding now so you can attend! Click [here](#) to visit the IBEA Website to register now and secure your seat for Certifications and Conference sessions.

- Early Bird Professional IBEA Member \$225
- Professional IBEA Member \$275
- Non IBEA Member \$375
- Retired IBEA Member \$165
- Student IBEA Member \$100
- On-Site Registration \$375
- Hotel Rooms \$118 + Tax

Get Certified with Certiport Today!

Communication Skills for Business (CSB)
Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB)
IC3 Digital Literacy
Intuit Certified User (QuickBooks)
IT Specialist
Microsoft Office Specialist
Unity Certified User Project Management Institute

Must sign up when registering - limited spots available!



Fall Conference Schedule-at-a-Glance

Wednesday, November 5

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	IBEA Executive Council Meeting and Lunch
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.	IBEA Dinner (offsite) & Board Meeting
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Session 1 - <i>Certiport Testing</i>
7:10 - 8:10 p.m.	Session 2 - <i>Certiport Testing</i>

Thursday, November 6

7:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration Desk Open
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Session 3 - <i>Certiport Testing</i>
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits & Silent Auction open (<i>closed during Opening Session</i>)
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Opening Session Brunch: <i>Awards, Featured Speaker - Dr. Rachael Mahmood</i>
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open
11:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.	Session 4
12:20 - 1:50 p.m.	Session 5 - <i>Legislative Update</i>
1:55 - 2:15 p.m.	Snack Break, visit Exhibits & Silent Auction
2:20 - 3:20 p.m.	Session 6 - <i>Certiport Testing</i>
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Session 7 - <i>Affiliate Meetings, Certiport Testing</i>
4:35 - 5:00 p.m.	Final time to see exhibits, silent auction closes, exhibit ticket numbers called
7:30 - 10:00 p.m.	President's Reception - with raffles, snacks, beverages, and networking

Friday, November 7

7:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Registration Desk Open
7:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Session 8 - past presidents council
8:40 - 9:40 a.m.	Session 9
9:50 - 10:50 a.m.	Session 10
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Closing Session: <i>Lunch, Business Meeting, Scholarships, Passing of the Gavel</i>
1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	PD Desk Open

Fall Conference Keynote Speaker Article



Celebrating Rachael Mahmood: Illinois Teacher of the Year and Advocate for Diversity in Education

Rachael Mahmood, Illinois' Teacher of the Year, stands as a beacon of dedication, compassion, and inclusivity in the world of education. Known for her remarkable ability to inspire students and colleagues alike, Mahmood's approach to teaching goes far beyond the classroom—she is a tireless advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in education.

Rachael Mahmood's journey to becoming Illinois Teacher of the Year is built on her unwavering belief that every student, regardless of background or ability, deserves a chance to thrive. Her commitment to recognizing and nurturing the

unique potential in each child has made her an educator who doesn't just teach but empowers. By creating an environment where all students feel heard, respected, and valued, she has become a role model for others in the education community.

Recognizing the Power of Diversity

One of the cornerstones of Mahmood's work is her deep commitment to recognizing the diversity that exists within her school and community. She views this diversity not as a challenge but as an opportunity for growth. Whether it's cultural, racial, socioeconomic, or neurodivergent differences, Mahmood believes that these varied experiences enrich the learning environment and provide invaluable perspectives.

In her classroom, she doesn't shy away from discussions about identity, privilege, and social justice. Mahmood integrates these critical topics into her curriculum to ensure that her students understand the world around them and their place within it. Her aim is to not only teach academic subjects but to foster a generation of compassionate, empathetic individuals who respect and celebrate differences.

Promoting Inclusive Practices Across Schools

As Illinois Teacher of the Year, Mahmood has used her platform to advocate for systemic changes that recognize and support diverse student populations. She has pushed for more culturally responsive teaching methods, ensuring that all students see themselves reflected in the material and experiences presented in school. Her efforts extend beyond her own classroom as she mentors colleagues, providing professional development opportunities and resources focused on inclusivity.

She has been instrumental in organizing school-wide events and initiatives aimed at celebrating cultural awareness and inclusion. Whether it's through multicultural fairs, guest speakers, or collaborative projects with local communities, Mahmood's goal is to create a space where students and staff alike engage in meaningful dialogue about diversity.

Leading by Example

Mahmood's leadership is not confined to the classroom or her school district. She has been a powerful voice at state and national education conferences, where she shares her strategies for inclusive teaching and highlights the importance of recognizing diversity. She has proven that when educators take the time to understand and support their students' diverse backgrounds, they can unlock untapped potential and inspire greatness.

Looking Ahead: A Legacy of Change

Rachael Mahmood's work is not just about the accolades she receives, but about the lives she changes. She is creating a legacy that will be felt for years to come, one where every student is seen, heard, and celebrated. As Illinois Teacher of the Year, she reminds us all that teaching is about more than just imparting knowledge—it's about creating an environment where every student can thrive in their own unique way.

Through her dedication to diversity, inclusion, and student empowerment, Rachael Mahmood is not just shaping the future of education—she's helping to shape a more inclusive, compassionate world.

Fall Conference Session Preview



We hope that your school year is off to a strong start! The IBEA is pleased to invite you to our 63rd Annual Fall Conference, a distinguished event focused on delivering exceptional professional development and networking opportunities for Business educators statewide. This year's theme, Empowering Future-Ready Educators, underscores our dedication to providing educators with the resources and inspiration necessary to prepare students for success in an ever-evolving world.

Keynote Speaker:

We are honored to announce that our keynote speaker for the event will be Dr. Rachael Mahmood, Illinois' Teacher of the Year. Rachael has been recognized for her outstanding commitment to fostering inclusion and diversity within the classroom, which has earned her this prestigious distinction.

Conference Highlights:

- CHSI Competition (Thursday): Have your business students participate in the CHSI Competition, an exciting event that showcases innovative solutions in business education.
- Thursday Brunch: Enjoy a delightful brunch while networking with fellow educators and watching our Awards Program and featured speaker.
- Thursday Afternoon: Meet to listen to current legislative updates pertaining to business education and ask questions to a local legislator
- President's Reception & Networking Event (Thursday Night): Join us for an evening of networking at the President's Reception. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with peers, share ideas, and build lasting professional relationships.
- Friday Breakfast Buffet: Start your day with a delicious breakfast before diving into a day filled with informative workshops.
- Friday Lunch: Wrap up the conference with a satisfying lunch, providing the perfect opportunity to reflect on the insights gained and discuss future collaborations and ideas for your classroom.

Additional Perks

- Conference Gift Bag: All registered attendees will receive a conference gift bag filled with useful materials and surprises to enhance your conference experience.
- Free Parking: For those staying at the conference hotel, parking is complimentary, ensuring a convenient and stress-free stay.
- The 63rd Annual IBEA Fall Conference promises to be an enriching event, offering valuable opportunities for learning, inspiration, and networking. We look forward to welcoming you to Springfield this November as we unite to Empower Future Ready Educators.

IBEA Membership Form



MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Illinois Business Education Association (IBEA) encourages you to become a member of or renew your membership in your professional organizations for the upcoming membership year. Once your membership is processed, you will receive all the benefits that come with membership in IBEA and/or IACTE (Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education). Joining or renewing is easy.

- Use paper form:
 - Check the type of membership you choose
 - Complete the information section below
 - Return this form along with your check payable to IBEA, and mail to
Alicia Matusiak, IBEA Membership, 360 W. Gordon Street, Coal City, Illinois 60416

2. Online: With credit card at www.ibea.org

Membership Category	IBEA**	IBEA** & IACTE	IEIN Illinois Educator Identification Number
IBEA Professional/ IACTE Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$105.00	*Your IEIN (Illinois Educator Identification Number) is now required as part of the reporting process for you to earn PDs from IBEA
Student IBEA/Student IACTE (Not Yet Teacher Certified)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00	
Retired IBEA/Retired IACTE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40.00	
Retired IBEA Past President/ Retired IACTE	Membership already processed	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last: _____

Home Street: _____

Home City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____ County: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

School: _____ School Phone: () _____

School Street: _____

School City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____ County: _____

E-mail address: _____

Position: Administration Consultant COordinator Student Supervisor
(please circle) Teacher Teacher Educator Retired Other

IBEA Affiliate: CA=Chicago Area, C=Chicago, NI=Northern IL, WI=Western IL, PA=Peoria Area,
(please circle) MI=Mid IL, CI=Central IL, EI=Eastern IL, SW=Southwestern Area, SI= Southern IL

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be no IBEA dues refunds

12/2022

2025 Fall Conference Call for Presentations



**2025 IBEA FALL CONFERENCE
CALL FOR SESSION PRESENTERS
NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025
Application Deadline: June 1, 2025**

Do you have a really fun project, or a great way to review? Have you figured out a way to manage your classroom that works well? Is there a lesson you have learned teaching that you would like to share? Share your knowledge by presenting a session at the 2025 IBEA Fall Conference or recommend someone to give a session. IBEA needs approximately 50 presenters for the 2025 IBEA Fall Conference. One form must be filled out for each session.

If you have any questions or need help completing this form, please contact the IBEA President Elect at preselect@ibea.org

Please Note the Following: Presenters will need to supply his/her own laptop, HDMI connection to LCD projector that will be provided and speakers (for sound) if needed.

Select One Or More of the Following Dates/Times Available		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, November 5 6 – 9 p.m. Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, November 6 1-Hour Morning Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, November 7 1-Hour Morning Session
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Day, Any Time Needed 1-Hour Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, November 6 1-Hour Afternoon Session	
Type of Session		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hands on Computer (BYOD)	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration/Lecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Roundtable/Forum/Discussion

Select At Least One Item In Each Column <i>(Needed for New CPDU Requirements)</i>	
<u>Professional Development Outcome</u> (Select at least one item that best fits presentation objective and topic)	<u>Standards</u> (You must select the standards that are aligned to the content of the presentation)
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase knowledge and skills of school and district leaders who guide continuous professional development <input type="checkbox"/> Will lead to improved learning of students <input type="checkbox"/> Address the organization of adults into learning communities, the goals of which are aligned to those of the school and district <input type="checkbox"/> Deepen participants’ content knowledge in one or more subject areas <input type="checkbox"/> Provide educators with research-based instructional strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare participants to appropriately use various types of classroom assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Use learning strategies appropriate to the intended goals <input type="checkbox"/> Provide participants with the knowledge and skills to collaborate <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare participants to apply research to decision-making	National Standards for Professional Learning: <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Data <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Designs <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes

See the link below for descriptions of standards <http://learningforward.org/standards/leadership>
 OR
 Please list below the Illinois Learning Standard that your presentation addresses.
 The standards can be found at:<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/>

Presentation Proposal Information

SESSION TITLE: _____

NAME OF SPEAKER(S): _____

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION: _____

POSITION/TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: Home _____ Work _____

E-mail: _____

DESCRIPTION OF SESSION:

Insert a one-paragraph description of break-out session for **conference program**. It is recommended that the description be 5-6 sentences (approximately 100 words) in length.

A/V EQUIPMENT: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- INTERNET ACCESS (Presenter) INTERNET ACCESS (Participant) SCREEN PROJECTOR TABLE

Note: Presenter will need to supply own laptop, HDMI connection to LCD projector that will be provided and speakers (for sound) if needed.

A copy of this form submission will be e-mailed to you, the IBEA Webmaster, and stored in the IBEA website database until the Fall Conference is completed.

When you click the submit button, your form will be processed. A successful form submission will redirect you to the home page of the IBEA website. If you receive a page of errors, please contact the Webmaster at: webmaster@ibea.org.

2025 IBEA Conference Call for Chairpersons



2025 IBEA FALL CONFERENCE CALL FOR CHAIRPERSONS NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025

It's fun, easy and rewarding! Details will be provided to chairpersons prior to the conference. Session chairperson duties include:

- Greeting conference participants at the door
- Introducing the session speaker(s)
- Assisting the speaker with handouts
- Distributing and collecting session evaluations & Professional Development stickers

IBEA needs approximately 50 session chairpersons for the 2025 IBEA Fall Conference. If you have any questions or need help completing this form, please contact the IBEA President Elect at preselect@ibea.org

Select One Or More of the Following Dates/Times Available		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, November 5; 1-hour evening (6 – 9 p.m.) Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, November 6; 1- Hour Morning Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, November 7 1-Hour Morning Session
<input type="checkbox"/> Any Day, Any Time Needed 1-Hour Session	<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, November 6; 1-Hour Afternoon Session	

SPECIFIC SESSION (If there are specific sessions you would like to chair): _____

NAME: _____

SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: Home _____ Work _____

E-mail: _____

A copy of this form submission will be e-mailed to you, the IBEA Webmaster, and stored in the IBEA website database until the Fall Conference is completed.

When you click the submit button, your form will be processed. A successful form submission will redirect you to the home page of the IBEA website. If you receive a page of errors, please contact the Webmaster at: webmaster@ibea.org.

IACTE Update

The Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education (IACTE) has been actively engaged in advancing CTE initiatives and strengthening partnerships across the state and beyond.

This summer, members of the ACTE Board of Directors attended the SkillsUSA State Competition, supporting Illinois students and showcasing the strong connection between leadership and workforce development. Throughout the legislative session, IACTE worked diligently on behalf of CTE educators and students, collaborating with the SDLC/AVDC on statewide initiatives and with IFACSTA Conference leadership to streamline registration and professional development documentation.

The IACTE Board of Directors held a face-to-face meeting on July 28, followed immediately by the joint IACTE and Illinois Career and Technical Administrators (ICTA) Back-to-School Retreat at Illinois State University, July 28–30. With 80 participants pre-registered, the retreat served as a valuable opportunity for professional growth and collaboration. Additionally, IACTE leaders attended the IAVAT Board Meeting on July 31.

IACTE is also excited to announce the upcoming launch of its new website. Members are encouraged to stay tuned for more details.

On a regional level, the Region III Conference in June, hosted at Joliet Junior College, achieved the highest attendance in four years with 135 participants. Under the leadership of new IACTE President Kaleb Smith, the conference highlighted excellence in CTE through the Region III awards:

- Region III Award of Merit: Holly Camerano, Elizabeth Kauffman, Brian Gordon
- Region III Excellence Awards (Advancing to Nationals):
 - ACTE Teacher of the Year: Mr. Matt Erbach, Illinois
 - ACTE New Teacher of the Year: Kelly Paige, Illinois
 - ACTE Counseling & Career Development Professional Award: Margaret Janke, Illinois

Looking ahead, several key events are on the horizon:

- Forum for Excellence: September 17–18, Embassy Suites, East Peoria, IL
- ACTE CareerTech VISION Conference: December 9–12, Nashville, TN
- IACTE Annual Conference: February 18–20, 2026, Bank of Springfield Center/Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL
- Legislative Advocacy Day: Date to be determined after September 1, when Capitol bookings open
- ACTE National Policy Seminar: March 22–25, 2026, Washington, DC
- Region III Conference: June 15–17, 2026, Menomonie, Wisconsin

IACTE remains committed to advocating for CTE at every level and providing professional development opportunities that equip educators to prepare students for success.

Legislative Update

This legislative session brought significant progress for Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Illinois, with several bills passed that modernize policies, expand opportunities, and strengthen support for students and educators.

Key Legislation Passed

- **SB1605 – CTE Graduation Requirement Modernization (Sen. Doris Turner):** Updates outdated “vocational education” terminology to “career and technical education,” reflecting the modern scope and value of CTE.
- **SB851 – Career Use of Activity Buses (Sen. Laura Murphy):** Permits school districts to use multi-use activity buses for career-related events, including CTE and work-based learning activities.
- **HB2967 – Dual Credit Quality Act Amendment (Rep. Terra Costa Howard):** This comprehensive amendment reshapes the oversight of dual credit programs statewide, with provisions focused on equity, accountability, and transparency. Highlights include:
 - Declaring the closure of opportunity gaps a core purpose of dual credit.
 - Requiring community colleges to respond to dual credit partnership requests within 60 days, with a Model Agreement implemented if no agreement is reached within 180 days.
 - Expanding instructor approval pathways through professional development plans or HLC credentials, with an appeals process in place.
 - Increasing transparency by requiring public sharing of instructor criteria, enrollment, agreements, and course locations, along with annual reports from ISBE and ICCB.
 - Establishing a permanent Dual Credit Committee co-led by ISBE and ICCB to review and update standards.
 - Requiring districts to attempt partnerships with local community colleges before seeking out-of-state providers.
 - Providing a clear appeals process for denied courses or instructors through ICCB.
- **HB2802 – Attendance Policy for Career-Connected Learning (Rep. Tony McCombie):** Expands what qualifies toward daily student attendance, including supervised career development experiences, work-based learning, youth apprenticeships, and CTSO, FFA, and 4-H events. District policies and student handbooks must reflect these updates to ensure students are not penalized for participation.
- **HB2801 – ISBE Career Opportunity Portal (Rep. Tony McCombie):** Requires ISBE to launch a public portal by July 1, 2026, for externship, internship, and volunteer opportunities connected to CTE pathways. Beginning in 2027, ISBE will also publish an annual disaggregated report on approved opportunities.

CTE Funding Update

The FY'26 State Budget includes a \$1.33 million increase for secondary CTE, a significant investment that will expand access and enhance program quality for students across Illinois.

Important Dates

Mark Your Calendar!

Professional Organizations

National Business Education Association

October 21 - 24, 2025
Cincinnati, Ohio

International Society for Business Education

TBA

Illinois Business Education Association

November 5 - 7, 2025
Springfield, Illinois

Association for Career and Technical Education

December 10 - 13, 2025
Nashville, Tennessee

Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education

February 12 - 13, 2026
Springfield, Illinois

ACTE National Policy Seminar

March 22 - 25, 2026
Arlington, Virginia

ACTE Region III Conference

June 15 - 17, 2026
Menomonie, Wisconsin

ACTE Work-Based Learning Conference

TBA

Illinois Career Connections Conference

May 5 - 6, 2026
Normal, Illinois

Career and Technical Student Organizations

Skills USA

State Conference:
April 23 - 25, 2026
Peoria, Illinois

National Conference:
June 1 - 5, 2026
Atlanta, Georgia

Future Business Leaders of America

State Leadership Conference:
April 10 - 11, 2026
Springfield, Illinois

National Leadership Conference:
June 29 - July 2, 2026
San Antonio, Texas

FBLA Collegiate (formerly Phi Beta Lambda)

State Leadership Conference:
February 27 - 28, 2026
Godfrey, Illinois

National Leadership Conference:
June 6 - 8, 2026
Las Vegas, Nevada

Business Professionals of America

State Leadership Conference:
TBA

National Leadership Conference:
May 6 - 10, 2026
Nashville, Tennessee

DECA

DECA ICDC (Collegiate)
April 18 - 21, 2026
Louisville, Kentucky

DECA ICDC (HS)
April 25 - 28, 2026
Atlanta, Georgia