



IBEA *REPORTS* *NEWSLETTER*

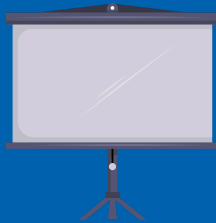
ILLINOIS BUSINESS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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A Message From Your President

IBEA Members,

Thank you to everyone who attended the 63rd Annual IBEA Fall Conference in Springfield last month. It was wonderful to see more than 100 members, presenters, exhibitors, and guests participating in learning opportunities and networking. A special thank you to Dr. Rachael Mahmood for sharing creative ways to build inclusive and equitable learning environments through culturally relevant instruction, dialogue facilitation, implicit bias awareness, multicultural curriculum design, and strategies for engaging diverse families in education.



Heather Borowiak
IBEA President

As always, I loved catching up with familiar faces and was excited to welcome so many new ones this year. If you were unable to attend, please mark your calendar now so you can join us next year. The 2026 Annual Fall Conference will again be held at the Abraham Lincoln Springfield – A DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, November 4–6, 2026.

As we approach the end of the first semester, I hope you all enjoy a much-needed break and return refreshed to begin the 2026 calendar year strong. I encourage you to stay involved in your professional organization. Check in with your local affiliate to see if a spring meeting is planned. If not, consider attending another affiliate’s meeting to gather ideas you can bring back to your own group.

Please also continue thinking about how we can support one another with new curriculum, CTSOs, and ongoing advocacy for our content area. If you have ideas or would like to become more involved with IBEA, please reach out to me at president@ibea.org or to President-Elect Ally Ferguson at preselect@ibea.org. We are eager to continue supporting and collaborating with you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the IBEA Reports Newsletter and the highlights from this year’s Annual Fall Conference. And don’t forget to mark your calendar for next year’s conference, November 4–6, 2026!

Heather Borowiak

2025-2026 IBEA President

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IBEA is on X!

For those of you who have an X account you can follow @ibeateweets. If you do not have an X account, you can still see posts and updates without signing up by simply going to the [ibeateweets](#) page on X!



The direct URL to the IBEA X page is:
<http://twitter.com/ibeateweets>

IBEA REPORTS

FOUNDED 1951

Published April and September
 by the
 Illinois Business Education Association
 affiliated with
 Illinois Association for Career and
 Technical Education,
 American Association for Career and
 Technical Education,
 National Business Education Association,
 North Central Business Education Association,
 and the
 International Society for Business Education.

COPY DEADLINES

March 1 and August 1

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IBEA Board Briefs

Hello IBEA Members and Friends,

Wow, the 2025 IBEA Fall Conference was so much fun. Thank you to all who attended, and I look forward to seeing even more of you at the 2026 Fall Conference.

At Friday's business meeting, we learned that there were 120 attendees at this year's conference. Heather Borowiak, IBEA President, also had the opportunity to introduce our new Membership Director, April Suter. April additionally serves as the Affiliate Representative for the Peoria Area Business Education Association. Heather highlighted several upcoming events, including the IACTE Conference, scheduled for February 12-13, 2026, in Springfield.



Rod McQuality
IBEA Executive
Director

This year has been an exciting one for IBEA as we launched new partnerships with both university and business partners. We currently have six Business Partners: Wells Fargo, WISE, National Geographic/Cengage, Certiport/Pearson, the National Business Education Association, and Personal Finance Lab. Our University Gold Partners are Millikin University, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Western Illinois University. If you know of a business or university that would make a great partner, please contact Rod McQuality at ibea@ibea.org.

IBEA is also assisting the University of Illinois Springfield in sponsoring Innovate.ED, a one-day EdTech Summit featuring leaders from Microsoft, Google, and AWS, along with AI demonstrations from MagicSchool. The summit is designed for school administrators and technology leaders and will be held Thursday, January 22, 2026, at the Horace Mann Building in Springfield. Be sure to invite your school leaders to attend. [Click here to register.](#)

IBEA is also seeking member submissions highlighting how students are using AI in the classroom. Winning submissions will be invited to present their pitch at the Innovate.ED Summit. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your students, program, and school. [Click here to submit your student AI pitch.](#)

Upcoming virtual PD sessions include Preparing for Retirement on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. [Click here to register.](#) On Tuesday, January 27, our Business Partner Personal Finance Lab will host a session titled Financial Literacy Gamified: Long-Term Games and Lab Spaces. [Click here to register.](#)

Finally, be sure to watch www.ibea.org and check your email for details about Business Signing Month in April. IBEA encourages you to recognize graduating seniors who are continuing their education or entering the workforce in a business-related field. The signing month will be highlighted on our website and social media. This is a great opportunity to celebrate your students, your program, and your school.

2025 Dora J. Beattie Scholarship Winners

Dora J Beattie Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Established in 2011, the Dora J. Beattie IBEA Undergraduate Scholarship supports exceptional college business students who are pursuing careers in business education. The program provides financial assistance to undergraduates enrolled in accredited business teacher education programs at Illinois institutions, helping prepare the next generation of business educators for success in Illinois schools.

Each year, scholarships are awarded to juniors and seniors who are actively working toward their business teacher education degrees. To remain eligible, recipients must attend the full IBEA Annual Fall Conference in November.

Scholarship awards include:

- \$5,000 for juniors to support tuition costs
- \$10,000 for seniors to support tuition costs
- An additional \$1,000 student-teaching scholarship, awarded directly to the student during their student-teaching semester

This year, we are proud to recognize **Katlin Orstrom** and **Johnny Dorn** as scholarship recipients. Katlin is a senior at Illinois State University and will begin her student teaching in January. A 2022 graduate of Hoffman Estates High School, Katlin shared that her dad played a significant role in encouraging her to explore business.

Johnny is also a senior at Illinois State University and will graduate in December 2026. He is currently completing his student teaching at Lake Forest High School. Johnny has always been fascinated by how businesses start, grow, and adapt, particularly in areas such as Entrepreneurship and Finance.

Congratulations, **Katlin** and **Johnny**!



Katlin Orstrom
Dora J Beattie Undergraduate Scholarship Winner



Johnny Dorn
Dora J Beattie Undergraduate Scholarship Winner

Dora J Beattie Conference Scholarship Program

Student members of IBEA who plan to attend the Illinois Business Education Association's annual conference are eligible for a Dora J. Beattie Conference Scholarship. Students must be registered for the conference to receive the stipend and must commit to attending activities on both Thursday and Friday.

This year, eleven Beattie Scholarships were awarded. Each recipient received a check for \$400. The award winners were: Grace Asien, Blake Charles, Johnny Dorn, Carson Houser, Flavio Morales, Kate Orstrom, Ellie Rolley, Gavin Tenuta, Robert Widlowski, Kacper Wujda, and Joseph Zeman.

2025 IBEA Award Winners

Dr. Nesrin Bakir - IBEA Research Award

Dr. Nesrin Bakir, Assistant Professor of Business at Illinois State University, is the recipient of this year's IBEA Research Award. Dr. Bakir has been an active contributor to the field of Business Education, consistently advancing research that supports both preservice and in-service educators across Illinois and beyond.

Throughout her career, Dr. Bakir has engaged in numerous studies that explore effective instructional practices, digital learning environments, and the evolving skill needs of today's business students. Her work includes *Zooming Into a Community: Exploring Various Teaching Practices to Help Foster a Sense of Community and Engagement in Remote Teaching*, a study that offered timely insight during the shift to online instruction. Her findings have helped educators strengthen student connection, engagement, and instructional effectiveness in virtual settings.

This year's IBEA Research Award recognizes her study, *Foundations of Practical Analytical Skills: An Examination of Undergraduate Business Students' Self-Efficacy Using Excel*. In this research, Dr. Bakir examines student confidence and competence with analytical tools that are essential in modern business careers. Her work not only highlights current gaps in student preparedness but also provides direction for business teacher education programs seeking to better equip future professionals with practical, industry-relevant skills.

Dr. Bakir's dedication to advancing business education scholarship, improving classroom practice, and supporting future educators embodies the mission of IBEA. We are grateful for her ongoing commitment to our field and look forward to the valuable contributions her future research will bring.

Congratulations, Dr. Bakir!



Lisa Earp - Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year

This year, the Illinois Business Education Association is proud to recognize Lisa Earp as the recipient of the IBEA Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year Award. Lisa has been a dedicated member of the Lake Land College faculty for more than twenty years, and her impact on her students, colleagues, and program is remarkable.

Throughout her career, Lisa has been known for going above and beyond to ensure that every student has the support needed to succeed. Whether a student is navigating a challenging course, preparing for transfer, or building confidence in essential business skills, Lisa is often the first to step in with guidance, encouragement, and a personalized approach. Her commitment to student success is evident in the lasting relationships she builds and the trust her students place in her.

Lisa Earp Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year Recipient

Lisa's contributions extend far beyond the classroom. She actively serves as an advisor, contributes to numerous campus committees, and plays a key role in the development of new programs that strengthen the college's business offerings. Her leadership is informed by both vision and collaboration, and she is widely recognized as a caring mentor, an innovative thinker, and a team-focused professional who elevates everyone around her.

Her dedication to high-quality post-secondary business education, coupled with her passion for supporting the next generation of business professionals, exemplifies the values of IBEA. Lake Land College is stronger because of her, and the field of business education continues to benefit from her expertise and commitment.

Congratulations, Lisa, and thank you for your exceptional service and leadership!

IBEA Fall Conference Photos



IBEA Executive Director, Rod McQuality, addresses attendees of the conference.



The Silent Auction table was full of fabulous goodies!



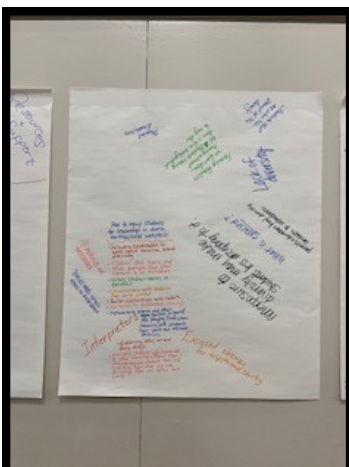
Josh Ebbert speaks about what being a member of IBEA has meant to him and his career.



Illinois State University business education students received the Dora J Beattie Conference Scholarship.

Far left, bottom: IBEA Members participated in a World Cafe activity led by our keynote speaker, Dr. Rachael Mahmood.

Immediate left, bottom: Stuart School of Business recently joined the IBEA Conference for the first time, with Claire Johnson and Curt Allee representing the school. This new partnership allows Stuart to strengthen connections with business educators across Illinois, promote the undergraduate and graduate programs, certificates, and upskilling opportunities, and build relationships with corporate partners, opening doors for future internships and career opportunities for students.



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 IACTE (Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education). Joining or renewing is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1) **Check** the type of membership you choose;
- 2) **Complete** the information section below;
- 3) **Return** this form along with your check payable to IBEA to April Suter, IBEA Membership, 3588 E Tater Holler Road, Avon, IL 61415

	IBEA	IBEA & IACTE
IBEA Regular	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IACTE Professional	\$45.00	\$105.00
Student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Not Yet Teacher Certified)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Retired	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$10.00	\$40.00
IBEA Retired Past President/ Retired IACTE	Membership already processed	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00
Retired IBEA Past President/ Professional IACTE	Membership already processed	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00
Retired IBEA/ Professional IACTE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00

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



Call for Presenters

Illinois Business Education Association
2026 IBEA Fall Conference
Application Deadline: September 1, 2026

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? Get ready for Empowering Future Ready Educators! Share your knowledge by presenting a session at the **2026** IBEA Fall Conference or recommend someone to give a session. Please complete this form before the deadline above. IBEA needs approximately 50 presenters for the **2026** 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

- Wednesday, November 4: 1-Hour Evening Session
- Thursday, November 5: 1-Hour *Morning* Session
- Thursday, November 5: 1-Hour *Afternoon* Session
- Friday, November 6: 1-Hour Morning Session
- Any day/time needed

Would you be willing to present your topic more than once at the conference?

- YES
- NO

Type of Session

- Hands-on Computer (BYOD)
- Demonstration/Lecture
- Roundtable/Forum/Discussion

Professional Development Outcome (Select at least one)

- Increased knowledge and skills of school and district leaders who guide continuous professional development
- Will lead to improved learning of students
- Addressed the organization of adults into learning communities whose goals are aligned with those of their schools and districts
- Deepened participants' content knowledge in one or more content (subject) areas
- Provided participants with research-based instructional strategies to assist students in meeting rigorous academic standards
- Prepare participants to appropriately use various types of classroom assessments
- Used learning strategies appropriate to the intended goals
- Provided participants with the knowledge and skills to collaborate

National Standards for Professional Learning

If you are not selecting one of the national standards, please list the Illinois Learning Standard that your presentation addresses in the box below.

- Learning Communities
- Leadership
- Resources
- Data
- Learning Designs
- Implementation
- Outcomes

See the link below for descriptions of standards

<http://learningforward.org/standards-for-professional-learning>

The standards can be found at: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Learning-Standards.aspx>

Session Information:

Session Title _____

Name of Speaker(s) _____

School/Organization _____

Position/Title _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

Please enter the phone number in the following format: +1(XXX)XXX-XXXX.

Work Phone _____

Please enter the phone number in the following format: +1(XXX)XXX-XXXX.

Fax _____

Please enter the fax number in the following format: +1(XXX)XXX-XXXX.

Preferred E-mail Address

Session Description

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed:

Projector Screen Table Other

Internet Access (Presenter)

Internet Access (Participant)

By clicking the submit button below, you are sending your information via e-mail to the IBEA President-Elect to present a session for the IBEA Fall Conference.

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.

Ally Ferguson

IBEA President-Elect



Call for Chairs

**2026 IBEA Fall Conference
November 4-6, 2026**

It's fun, easy and rewarding!
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 2026 IBEA Fall Conference. If you have any questions, please contact the IBEA President-Elect at [**preselect@ibea.org**](mailto:preselect@ibea.org).

Name _____

School/Business _____

School Address _____

School City, State, Zip _____

School Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Would you be willing to chair more than one session if needed (no more than two)

YES NO

Is there a specific topic or presenter you would like to chair for? We will *try to accommodate as many requests as possible*

By clicking the submit button below, you are sending your information via e-mail to the IBEA President-Elect to volunteer as a chairperson for the IBEA Fall Conference.

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

Important Dates

Mark Your Calendar!

Professional Organizations

National Business Education Association

April 1 - 2, 2027
Omaha, Nebraska

International Society for Business Education

TBA

Illinois Business Education Association

November 4 - 6, 2026
Springfield, Illinois

Association for Career and Technical Education

December 10 - 13, 2025
Nashville, Tennessee

Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education

February 19 - 20, 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

SkillsUSA

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