Blackwood Elected President of IPCC

Blackwood, a former Voice editor and active member of the Retiree Chapter, walked the picket line at the Harper College faculty strike in 2002 and the City Colleges strike in 2004.

Dr. Bob Blackwood, a Wright College retiree and correspondent for the College Union Voice, was elected president of the International Press Club of Chicago on Jan. 31. The Press Club, located at the Tavern Club, 333 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, sponsors discussions on topics of interest to journalists and the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame Dinner, presented annually in June.

Polly Gerber Zimmerman, RN MS MBA CEN, is co-editor of the newly released book *Triage Nursing Secrets* (Mosby, 2006). She is an Assistant Professor in nursing at Harry S. Truman College in Chicago and is the Associate Editor for the “Journal of Emergency Nursing” (JEN). Zimmerman also represents Truman College on the Faculty Council of the City Colleges of Chicago.

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Mail to:
College Union Voice • Cook County College Teachers Union
208 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60610
Triton College Classified Settle in Eight Days...Six Months before Current Contract Expires

On December 13, 2005, by a vote of 150 to 7, the Triton College Classified Association (TCCA) voted overwhelmingly to approve its new, four-year contract that had been negotiated during an eight-day period from December 1-8. The Triton Board of Trustees ratified the contract at its January 2006 meeting.

While the contract gains were excellent, the fact that a new contract was ratified six months prior to the current contract expiring is newsworthy in of itself and may be indicative of a positive trend between labor and management. Co-Chief Negotiator and CCCTU President Perry Buckley stated, “Interest-based bargaining is the way to go. Both sides set clear boundaries and dates that were closely followed. The negotiating process was cordial, and we feel that the contract is very fair to both sides. We hope to replicate this type of bargaining in upcoming negotiations at our other colleges.”

The negotiating team's other Co-Chair, Don Cragen, TCCA Chapter Chair, concurred with Buckley. “Going in to negotiations, the team had concerns, especially because of past bargaining experiences. However, this went smoothly and I’m very proud to present this contract to our members.” Other team members included Spokesman and Local 1600 Suburban VP Jim O’Malley, Sub-Chief Negotiator Jo Prignano, and TCCA members Veronica Howard, Terry Spulak, Linda Rossi and Linda Ricchio.

The four-year contract highlights include:

- A 4.3% salary increase each year totaling 17.2%.
- Eliminating the first four steps on the old step chart, essentially creating Grades 5 - 13.
- “Maxed out” employees at the top step still will receive the 4.3% increase per year.
- Minimum increases in health insurance: $38 to $99 per pay period based on plan and prescription costs increased to $6 generic, $10 brand name and $12 non-formulary.
- TCCA Retirees maintained their health insurance.
- Maintaining the 39-hour workweek and the shortened Friday schedule.
- Professional development increases by $100 a year from $1,900 to $2,300 by 2010.

The TCCA negotiating team celebrates their newly negotiated contract at Tom’s Steak House in Melrose Park. From left are Don Cragen, Perry Buckley, Jo Prignano, Linda Ricchio, Veronica Howard and Jim O’Malley. Not pictured: Terry Spulak and Linda Rossi.

STOP THE PRESSES!

As the Voice was going to press, the Arbitrator issued his ruling. The Union took up the cause of part-time adjuncts who refused to cross our picket line relying on the Article XIV “No Reprisals” clause. The Board reprised against these part-time professors by refusing to rehire them after the strike. On February 7, the arbitrator issued his ruling in favor of the Union. He has ordered the Union and the Board to work out an agreement within 90 days. If that does not happen, the arbitrator will impose a settlement. This is a significant development.
Triton College Classified contract. As the story reports it is an excellent contract which provides a 17.2% increase over four years for every member (no “max-out” limits) with no givebacks.

However, this is only half the “good news” story. I would argue that how the contract was negotiated is as important as what was negotiated. The Triton Classified Team (see front page), with full support and approval of the Triton administration entered into “Interest-Based Bargaining (IBB).” Perhaps to the surprise of both sides of the table this process worked and worked well.

The most significant aspect of this type of bargaining is the use of a limited, finite schedule of bargaining dates. At Triton both sides agreed to a one-week time frame (December 1 - 8). A tentative agreement was reached on December 7 and was overwhelmingly ratified by the membership one week later.

A second aspect of IBB is limited negotiations with each side bringing no more than five or six issues to the table. Contract language can, and in this case did, become an end product, but only after the both sides reach an understanding of the other side’s concerns. At Triton the issues were either resolved or mitigated to the satisfaction of both sides.

Perhaps the most important component of IBB is the collegial, non-adversarial manner in which the negotiations take place. The Triton administrative negotiators, Vice President Sean Sullivan and attorney Stanley Kusper, listened to the chapter’s needs and positions. Their initial proposals were neither extreme nor unreasonable. Likewise the Union also did not present inflated, unrealistic demands.

As the process evolved, the two sides came to agreement in an effective, sensible manner. “We disagreed without being disagreeable,” said Triton Chair Don Cragen.

These negotiations were based, in part, on the model of other successful Local 1600 contracts negotiated the past year. At South Suburban Faculty a five-year contract with 27% cumulative raises was negotiated in one day. Kusper was also at that table along with VP Dr. Diane Ostojic. At Oakton Classified a one-year contract extension of 4.9% was reached in three weeks. There too, the administration, led by HR Director Arnie Oudenoven, worked in partnership with the Union team. Much was the same with Morton Faculty, Morton Classified and South Suburban Adjuncts. In all these cases everyone won.

What all these negotiations demonstrate is this: Adversarial negotiations and “bunker-down mentality” rarely work for either side, and often create ill will that lasts long after the contract is signed. It is an exasperating and unproductive way of negotiating.

Based on these experiences I optimistically look forward to the six contracts we will negotiate this year… beginning in March for the Harper Faculty and Pro-Tech. In the world of education, learning lessons is always cause for joyful celebration.
Victory for Adjunct Faculty at South Suburban College

By Jennifer Marsh, IFT Field Service Director

South Suburban adjunct faculty won big raises in their first contract. Members ratified the contract overwhelmingly with a 94% “yes” vote by mail ballot in December 2005. The salaries for part-time faculty were among the lowest in the state when the group organized last year. As of January 2006, adjunct faculty will receive increases of 13% to 32% or between $50 and $125 per semester credit hour. For the first time, adjunct faculty will have a pay scale that significantly increases compensation based on experience. In each August of the three-year contract, adjunct faculty will receive raises of $25 per semester credit hour plus step increases at 23 credit-hour intervals.

Adjunct faculty also gained new contract rights in the areas of seniority, class assignments, sick leave accumulation and professional resources. Standard contract language providing union rights such as grievance procedures is nearly identical to the full-time faculty agreement at South Suburban.

The negotiating team included Richard Fox, Melissa Gaddini, Mike Horan, Mark Joseph and Kevin Riordan. They were led by IFT Field Service Director Jennifer Marsh as chief negotiator. Local 1600 President Perry Buckley and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele offered valuable support to the new chapter in dealings with the administration.

“It was a long process, but at the end I was very satisfied that our efforts helped all of the adjuncts here at South Suburban College,” said Gaddini. Marsh agreed, “Every step we take to raise standards for adjunct faculty benefits the teaching profession.”

After elections for the new chapter in February, the newly elected officers will be introduced at the Union House of Representatives meeting on March 10, 2006.

CONFERENCES

Senator Ed Maloney: Higher Education Extends Beyond the 18 - 22-year-olds

The CCCTU and other IFT-affiliated community college unions joined the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI), Local 4100, at the semi-annual joint “IFT Higher Education Conference” on November 11-12. At the opening night reception at the Westmont Double Tree, Illinois Senator Ed Maloney and Illinois Representative Kevin McCarthy discussed issues impacting higher education at the state level and then engaged in a lively Q & A with union members. Senator Maloney, “a proud member of the IFT,” stated, “It needs to be recognized that the services that higher education provides extend beyond the 18-22 year-olds. This understanding will go a long way toward assuring the public of the importance of higher education in the state.” The following day at the IFT Westmont center, the IFT University Council and the IFT Community College Council met separately to discuss, among many union issues, the negative impact of the diminishing higher education budget. The next meeting is March 17-18, 2006.
IFT PSRP Conference
“Meeting the Challenge”
a Success

Seventeen Local 1600 members, including CCCTU President Perry Buckley, Secretary Pat Wenthold and Classified VP Gail Wiot, joined more than 200 IFT Paraprofessional and School Related Personnel (PSRP) at its annual conference held Nov. 4-5 at the Wyndham Drake Hotel in Oak Brook, IL. On Friday a lively reception followed the PSRP special interest groups meetings. On Saturday morning there were two workshop sessions regarding numerous topics: Grievance Handling, New Member Program, Social Security: The Real Story and many more. Wiot noted, “It’s always good to get together with other PSRPs to discuss topics pertinent to our profession and swap ‘war stories.’ Union members know that PSRPs are exceptionally important in the day-to-day activities of any educational facility.” Moraine Valley Support Staff Chair Rose Marie Sakanis added, “This conference provided practical and informational workshops that all members of the PSRP division can take back to the members at their campuses. The time was well spent.”

Special guests included IFT President James Dougherty who discussed the AFT’s Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund, stating, “A good Union member knows that a hurt to one, is a hurt to all.”

He urged everyone present to donate to the fund. AFT Vice-President Loretta Johnson spoke passionately about the importance of certification that she believed would lead to greater recognition for the work that PSRPs do every day. “We are going to meet every drop of that standard because we can do it.”

President Buckley stated, “Our classified and support staff members make up over 1,000 of our members. I believe it is important for the president to take an active and interested part in PSRP activities. At this conference I learned not only more of our members’ concerns and issues, but the issues of PSRP members throughout the state.”

Lobby Day 2006 Higher Education Coalition
Local 1600
March 15, 2006
The Capitol / Governor’s Mansion, Springfield Illinois

9:00 a.m.: “Breakfast & Briefing”
Cafeteria / Stratton Building
(Basement cafeteria / College & Capitol Street)

10:15: Issues in Higher Education Assembly
Michael Howlett Building
(Capitol Complex / Edwards & 2nd Streets)

11:30: Public Rally
(Abraham Lincoln Statue / Capitol & 2nd Streets)

12:30: Lunch at the Executive Mansion
(Fourth & Jackson Streets)

• A van will leave the Union office at 6:00 a.m.
  for those needing transportation
• The IFT will reimburse drivers at 44.5 cents per mile
  with a minimum of two passengers
• Breakfast and lunch provided by
  Local 1600 COPE Committee
• To have lunch at the Governor’s mansion (for security reasons) you
  MUST notify the Union office by Tuesday, February 28, 2006.
  Call 312-755-9400
• This might be the most important lobby day
  in the history of our Union.
NOTICE OF ELECTION

Who: All local-wide officers including president, vice-president (city colleges), vice-president (suburban colleges), vice-president (suburban classified/support staff) secretary, treasurer, grievance chair and legislative representative; delegates and alternates to the 2006 AFT Convention in Washington, DC; delegates and alternates to the IFT Convention in 2007.

Eligibility: To run for local-wide office, a person must be a member in good standing for two years and have had experience as a member of the House of Representatives or a standing committee. To run for delegate or alternate to the AFT and IFT Conventions, a person must be a member in good standing.

Procedure: Local-wide officers may be nominated by any member of the House of Representatives at the January 20, 2006 House of Representatives meeting, or by a majority of members from a chapter or by a petition containing 50 signatures of union members received at the Union office by February 15, 2006.

Delegates and alternates to the AFT and IFT conventions may be nominated by a member of the House of Representatives at the January 20, 2006 meeting.

Voting: Will be held on each of the campuses Monday, March 6 - Wednesday, March 8, 2006, using a locked ballot box. Ballots will be counted at the Union office on Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10. The Retiree Chapter will vote by mail. Ballots must be received at the Union office by Thursday, March 9.

Election Results: Will be announced and certified at the House of Representatives meeting, Friday, March 10, 2006.

WEBSITE UPDATE

It has been talked about for months and it’s finally here: the CCCTU’s new website. Please bookmark this page: http://il.aft.org/local1600/. It is a much more user-friendly website with many links to the IFT and AFT. Local 1600 will be able to better communicate with its membership, be more efficient and save money. During the next phase, email and e-newsletters will be unveiled. Stay tuned.

With this issue the Voice bids adieu to Troy Swanson who has been the Webmaster for the Union for nearly two years and who has overseen the transition of the website. Swanson, a faculty librarian at Moraine Valley, has represented MV as a delegate to the Union House of Representatives since 2004.

At his college he is a member of the Executive Committee of the Moraine Valley Faculty Association and a member of the MVFA negotiating team.

Troy Swanson, with his wife, Kim, is leaving his position as the CCCTU Webmaster in March to focus his energies on his PhD program in Community College Leadership at Old Dominion University.
PHOTO ALBUM: Celebrations

Triton Faculty celebrating the holiday season on Jan. 8 at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park are (l-r) Judy Darst, CCCTU President Perry Buckley, Debbie Baker, Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn Wade, Lisa Hildebrand, Stew Sikora, Bill O’Connell and Suburban VP Jim O’Malley.

The Oakton Classified held their annual fall party at Riggio’s on Oct. 26, 2005. In the back (l-r) right are Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate, Patty Lucas, Teri Heath, Jim Kostecki, Jeri Paul, and Marilyn Davis. In the front row, representing Local 1600 are Secretary Pat Wenthold, City College VP Sonia Powell, Classified VP Gail Wiot, and IFT Staffer Jennifer Marsh.

Harper Faculty Chapter Chair Michael Harkins, Asst. Chapter Chair Paul Guymon and Local 1600 Secretary and Harper Potech Pat Wenthold warm up by the fire at the Prairie Rock Brewery in Schaumburg on Dec. 1 during Harper’s annual holiday party.

John DeAlba, Curtis Thurston and Ozear Hunt reminisce over a cup of coffee at the South Suburban College Support Staff Association (SSCSSA) holiday party held Dec. 9 at the Villa de Bruno in Lynwood.

Surrounding the retiring Marianne Bendinelli (seated, center) at the SSCSSA party are her long-time colleagues. To her left is Ruth Morford and to her right are Carol Dosen and Nancy Purcell. Standing (l-r) are Barb Wehling, Deborah Ravazee, Betty Myers, Sheri Davis, Cissy Gonzalez and Angie Couture. Bendinelli also was the chapter’s social chair. Great party, Marianne!

Marlita Mutis and Vali Siadat (see personal glimpse) are enjoying the end of the fall semester at the Daley College chapter celebrated the holiday season at the VFW hall in Summit on Dec. 17.

Moraine Valley Support Staff celebrated the holiday season in style on Dec. 9 at the Garden Chalet in Worth. Pictured are Local 1600 Classified VP Gail Wiot, Chapter Chair Rose Sakannis, Julie Poulos, Renee Skotnik and Helen Agresti.

Local 1600 officers Bill Naegele, Don Radtke and Tom Kodogeorgiou and IFT staffer Jennifer Marsh enjoy dinner at the Garden Chalet where the MV Support Staff held its holiday party.

Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson poses with Rochelle Zimbler, Rebecca Fournier and Christine Balesteri.
Visiting the CCCTU’s Campuses - Spring 2006

Perry Buckley, MX Chapter Chair Alta Williams and Asst. Chapter Chair William Stewart, Jr. pose for a picture at the MX meeting held Jan. 11.

Tamarra Coleman-Hill (left) listens to VP Sonia Powell discuss the part-time professionals new chapter and their upcoming election at the MX chapter meeting on Jan. 11.

Perry Buckley discusses pension issues with Kathy Hall and Jane Dellsy at Truman College on Jan. 12. Chapter Chair Tony Johnston looks on.

Mike McCloskey (in white shirt) listens to Perry Buckley discuss the importance of contributing to the COPE fund during Buckley’s visit to Truman College on Jan. 12. Incidentally, McCloskey now donates $75 per pay period to COPE.

During the Jan. 10 Wright Chapter Meeting in the cafeteria, President Perry Buckley responds to a question from Prof. Reggie Bishop (seated, center).

After the Jan. 10 Wright Chapter Meeting in the cafeteria, President Perry Buckley confers with Professors Anita Lendway and Ginia Jahrke.

Tanessa Nettles, Patricia Hill-Fentress, Derrick Smith, Annette Brown and Angela Boston enjoy the Jan. 19 meeting with President Perry Buckley and Chapter Chair Jeannette Williams.

Officers of the Harper Faculty Senate and Local 1600 pose at the Harper Spring Faculty Workshop on Jan. 11. From left are Chapter Chair Michael Harkins, CCCTU Secretary and Harper Pro-Tech Pat Wenthold, Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, Suburban VP Jim O’Malley and Assistant Chapter Chair Paul Guymon.

Moraine Valley Chapter leaders and Local 1600 leadership met on Jan. 12. From left are Suburban VP Jim O’Malley, MV Faculty Chapter Chair Randy Southard, Support Staff Chapter Chair Rose Marie Sakinis, CCCTU President Perry Buckley and Moraine Faculty member and soon-to-be former webmaster Troy Swanson.

New faculty members pose with Triton College Faculty Association and Local 1600 Officers at its spring meeting on Jan. 20. At left are TCFA Secretary/Treasurer Judy Darst and Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn-Wade. In the back row are CCCTU President Perry Buckley, Legislative Chair Bill Naegle and Suburban VP Jim O’Malley. Welcome aboard!

http://il.aft.org/local1600/
Nine Students Honored at KK Union Book Scholarship Awards Program

About 60 students, parents, administrators, teachers, training specialists, professionals, part-time professionals and staff were present to honor Kennedy-King students Keison Arnold, Rosalind Dugas, Daniel Ebai (not present), Calvin Epps, Vincent Jackson, Yolanda McLemore, Susie Morris, Janet D. Scott and Lorisha Watkins at the 25th Annual Union Book Scholarship Awards Program on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the second floor exhibit hall.

Mistress of Ceremonies Bernita Hunter opened the event. Arlicia Corley welcomed everyone. Chapter Chair Jeanette Williams reminisced over the founding of the program 25 years ago. Rosemary Jackson introduced the recipients. Treasurer Gregory Blair and Program Chair Narsis Garner presented the medallion and the scholarship checks. Meryl Junious recognized the donors. Calvin Epps presented a student response.

KK President Clyde El Amin praised both the chapter and the students present. Dr. Bob Blackwood from the College Union Voice gave some advice to student journalists-to-be. Program Chair Narsis Garner ended the event with this thought for the honorees: “Be unafraid of the challenges…and always stand fast by your life choices.”

At Lisa Hernández’s fundraiser on Jan. 25 at Sullivan’s in Chicago, Buckley and Naegele interviewed the Democratic candidate for the 24th Representative District. Hernandez is challenging the incumbent in the March primary. Naegele said, “Hernandez is a very strong candidate who believes in funding higher education.”
NEWS FROM THE CCC

Editor's note: CCC Vice President Sonia Jean Powell focuses on insurance issues and arbitrations for the Union in the City Colleges of Chicago. The following is an update written by Vice President Powell.

CCC'S ARBITRATION BEAT

• A Truman Training Specialist was charged with an offense that only warranted a day’s suspension without pay in another similar case at another college in our district. The other case was far more egregious. The arbitrator reduced the suspension to a written warning and ordered the return of two weeks of back pay.

• Two former counselors who were denied teaching positions have been awarded a Step II hearing to determine if they are qualified to have gotten a teaching position. An update will be forthcoming as this case moves along.

• We are continuing to pursue justice for the reprised-against Professors Emeritus. CCCTU has entered a claim before the Illinois Labor Relations Board. We will keep you all informed.

• A Daley College faculty member was bumped by administration out of her class by a junior faculty member. The arbitrator agreed that she should be compensated for this overtime class.

• An MXC Retro Pay claim was settled before going to hearing. Security officers, who left the bargaining unit after the effective date of their contract, January 2004, but before the contract ratification in November 2004, will be paid the negotiated increase of fifty cents for all hours worked during this period. The Board and Union have agreed to equally share this cost.

• Two terminated MXC Security Officers won their jobs back. Their terminations were reduced to written warnings and they will be made whole through a back pay settlement.

• The Board agreed to work with the Union on clarifying who belongs in the part-time professionals unit. As a result, 190 new members will not only become members of the Union, but will also receive back pay as mandated by the contract. Special thanks to Wright’s Grievance Chair Chuck Mustari for assisting in this process.

CCC'S INSURANCE CORNER

• If you have to pay multiple copays for the same prescription or discover that your medication is not covered, call Sonia Jean Powell at the Union office for advocacy.

• You may have recently received notice from CCC that our contract provides a rebate if you sign up with Travelers Insurance: $100 for home and $200 for auto. While this seems to be like a great deal, let me be very clear: this package has no benefit. I compared quotes between the Travelers group plan being offered to our CCC members with another major insurance company. It was the same insurance packet but the price of Travelers after the rebate was still hundreds of dollars more than the private, individual plan. Insurance consumers beware: do your homework and get multiple quotes before you select a provider.
**PERSONAL GLIMPSES**

**Long-time Union Activist**  
**Wendall Wilson Retires**

*Wendall Wilson* grew up in a family with strong union beliefs. The Rice University graduate (1964) enrolled at the University of Chicago in 1965 after a year in India on a Fulbright Scholarship. He taught at the university as an adjunct while working on his MA and PhD (1980). In 1975 he was hired to teach for City Wide at the U.S. Post Office Management Training Program but one week after he signed his contract, the union went on strike. Even though he had not joined the CCCTU, Wilson did not hesitate and walked with his colleagues on the picket line. The scabs are: *Danita Allen, Kevin E. Brown, Joyce Butler, Patricia A. Cooks, Linda C. English, Ray A. Gethers, David C. Goglin, Beverly Harris, Jennifer L. Hunt, Dexter A. Miles, Rita Pietrzak, Corey Reynolds, Alonzo Rhoden, Daniel Simpson, Kristine M. Schulz, Matthew R. Trujillo, Annette Watkins* (reinstatement plan has been initiated), *Richard Williams, Jinn (David) Yeh* and *Daaiyah Ziyad.*

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During the CCC strike of 2004, only twenty (20) union members crossed the picket line and became scabs, thus forfeiting their union membership. After the strike, the union formed a Militancy Committee, chaired by *Wendall Wilson,* who presented its “Scab Report” to the full Union House of Representatives on Friday, January 20, 2006. All twenty scabs were notified on April 11, 2005, of the charges against them and were offered the opportunity to a formal hearing before the Militancy Committee in December, 2005. Although twelve (12) requested hearings, only five (5) appeared in person and six (6) wrote appeals to the Committee of Wilson, VP *Sonia Powell,* Treasurer *Don Radtke,* Chapter Chairs *Jeanette Williams* (KK) and *John Harris* (OH) and Legislative Chair *Bill Naegele* who acted as an observer. Only one was found to be repentant and is taking steps to rejoin the Union and make it whole. The House voted overwhelmingly to strip the other nineteen of their union membership. The motion reads, in part: “The Militancy Committee moves that the House levy upon all the City Colleges scabs the full amount in restitutional fines provided under the CCCTU Constitution…” Please note, however, that the scabs can have their membership restored subject to making the Union whole by paying one day net pay for each day they crossed the picket line. The scabs are: *Danita Allen, Kevin E. Brown, Joyce Butler, Patricia A. Cooks, Linda C. English, Ray A. Gethers, David C. Goglin, Beverly Harris, Jennifer L. Hunt, Dexter A. Miles, Rita Pietrzak, Corey Reynolds, Alonzo Rhoden, Daniel Simpson, Kristine M. Schulz, Matthew R. Trujillo, Annette Watkins* (reinstatement plan has been initiated), *Richard Williams, Jinn (David) Yeh* and *Daaiyah Ziyad.*

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**NEWS FROM THE CCC (continued)**

**SCABS**

The Daley College chapter held a retirement party for Wendall Wilson (center) and Graciela Silva-Schuch (right) at the Barn in Burbank on Dec. 10. Former Union president, Norm Swenson (left), also attended: “The Union will miss both of these individuals but we look forward to their active participation in the Retiree Chapter. In fact, both are running for delegate positions.”

President Perry Buckley greets Theresa Tylka (left) from Wright College and Lynnel Kiely from Harold Washington. Tylka and Kiely are former colleagues of Wilson and Silva-Schuch at Daley.
Carnegie Foundation Names Vali Siadat Illinois Professor of the Year 2005

For the past eight years, Siadat has been the director of Chicago PREP, also known as Proyecto Access-Chicago. This is an intensive mathematics-based academic summer program targeting low income and minority students in middle school and high school, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in collaboration with Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). Proyecto Access-Chicago is one of only ten programs in the nation funded under the direction of NASA.

Siadat co-founded “The Keystone Project” which has placed Daley College on the national spotlight. In October 2001, it won the Excellence in Learning-Centered Instruction Award from the Illinois Community College Board. The program is designed to help students learn mathematics by requiring frequent testing on the concepts being addressed in the classroom.

Siadat has won other teaching awards and recognitions in the past: the 2001 Excellence in College Mathematics Teaching Award from the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the 2002 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

Local 1600 member and Richard J. Daley College faculty Dr. M. Vali Siadat was named the 2005 Illinois Professor of the Year from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Siadat is a skilled academic, with two doctorates in mathematics both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Siadat has been on the faculty of Daley College since 1982. Since 1997 he has been chairman in the Department of Mathematics. During that time, the department has consolidated its curriculum, expanded its course offerings from 45 to 80, and expanded its enrollments from 1000 to more than 2000. His colleagues unanimously chose him as the Distinguished Professor for Daley College for 1999-2000.

At a special recognition ceremony in December, Vali Siadat is given a plaque acknowledging his accomplishment. At left is Daley College colleague, Dr. John Novosel, and former Daley College Dean of Instruction Dan Landt.