Adult Learner Services at the Julia N. Visor Academic Center

2010—2011

Illinois State University

Julia N. Visor Academic Center at Illinois State University

The Julia N. Visor Academic Center opened January 2009. With the opening of this Center came a place for nontraditional students to call home, as well as traditional students.

The Visor Center has many opportunities for nontraditional students to meet, study, and rest.

Technology: The Visor Center has wireless connectivity in the study rooms, computer lab and the lounge area right outside the Center. In our computer lab, we have up-to-date software on all our computers. Printing is also available at our computer lab. The cost to print black and white is 8 cents per page and color is 80 cents per page. These costs are comparable to other computer labs on campus.

Tutoring: If you are taking a 100-level course, the Visor Center may have tutoring for it! Our tutors are knowledgeable students who have been recommended by faculty to tutor specific courses. Tutoring sessions are held once a week, for about an hour. The sessions are very small, 5—7 students, to offer a more beneficial atmosphere for everyone. If you are interested in our tutoring, contact the Visor Center as soon as possible as space is extremely limited.

Study Areas: If you are looking for a place to study while you are on campus, the Visor Center may be able to accommodate you. At various times, we have rooms available for you to reserve to meet with a group to work on a project for class, hold a study session with a group, or just to have a quiet area to yourself to focus on what you need to study.

Resources and Study Skills Workshops: Need help with learning the ropes of Graduate School and preparing for the GMAT or GRE? (continued

University College

University College offers programs and services to assist students in making successful transitions into Illinois State University, achieving his/her educational goals, and realizing their academic potential the first year and beyond. The various offices that report to University College are: University College Academic Advisement,

Developmental Math, First Year Linc, Julia N. Visor Academic Center, Preview, Transfer Day Program, TRIO/Student Support Services, and the University College Testing Services.

For more information about any of these departments, contact University College at 309-438-3217 or uCollege@IllinoisState.edu. The main office is located in Fell Hall, room 324.
Dean of Students - Nontraditional Student Services

Students at Illinois State University can be defined as “nontraditional” based upon age, work experience, level of previous education, military experience, and more. Because of these factors and the additional responsibilities that may be held by nontraditional students, Illinois State has created Nontraditional Student Services, a unit of the Dean of Students Office, to provide support and services that help enhance their experience at the University.

Nontraditional Student Services works to:

- Provide programs and services to educate non-traditional students about Illinois State
- Develop initiatives, programs, and committees that help nontraditional students succeed at Illinois State
- Offer programs, solutions, and services that help nontraditional students remain connected to the Illinois State community, such as coordinating campus events and meetings with academic departments, university staff, and community contacts

Nontraditional Student Services is offering a few events they have sponsored include a day at Miller Park Zoo, a Children’s Discovery Museum Day, and a Cooking class. You will be receiving emails regarding these events.

To contact Nontraditional Student Services, contact the Dean of Students Office at the Bone Student Center, room 140, Phone: (309) 438-5951 TTY: (309) 438-2762, or visit www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/help/nontraditional/

Military Personnel and Veterans

Illinois State University has been included in the 2010 Military Friendly Schools list published by G.I. Jobs magazine. The list recognizes the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are supporting the educational pursuits of veterans.

Criteria for inclusion in the Military Friendly Schools list includes a strong commitment to recruiting, retaining and providing financial, academic and social services to student veterans. More information on the list can be found at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/mfspr

Illinois State provides student veterans with a variety of academic, advisement and financial support services. With veterans becoming an increasingly important part of the student body, services that meet their unique educational and personal needs are constantly being enhanced.

The Veterans Services office serves as the first point of contact for student veterans. The office assists with Veterans Administration education benefits, helps student veterans transition into life on campus and provides referrals to other veterans services within the community. The registered student organization, Xi Gamma Iota, provides student veterans with social and service opportunities both on and off campus. For more information on Veterans Services visit www.registrar.ilstu.edu/Veterans/.

"Illinois State recognizes that the transition to college after military service can be difficult so we strive to make the transition as smooth as possible,” said Judy Curtis, coordinator of Veterans Services. "Our friendly, knowledgeable staff is ready to assist veterans from the application process through course selection, registration and beyond.”

ISU Report, August 25, 2009

Passages Session for Nontraditional Students

The Nontraditional Student Passages Session

Passages weekend is the weekend before classes start in the fall. There are many events that are held that are intended for newly admitted students to become familiar with Illinois State.

On Thursday, August 19, 2010 from 6:00—7:30 p.m. in the Founders Suite at the Bone Student Center, there is a special session for Nontraditional Students and Off-Campus Students. During this session, parking, resources and campus, and first hand experiences from nontraditional students will be presented.

There are many other events that Passages have to offer. Check out the Passages website at www.passages.ilstu.edu/
Women’s Mentoring Network

In Fall 2003, a group of university employees placed an ad in a campus publication to gauge interest in forming a mentoring network for female nontraditional students. As a result 27 university women mentored 41 nontraditional students. Many mentors in the group were once nontraditional students themselves and they understand the interests of nontraditional students.

To date, there are approximately 50 mentoring relationships in the network. Many report making some great friendships not only through their mentor, but also with the mentees they meet at the various social events the Women’s Mentoring Network (WMN) offers. The events the organization have scheduled for this academic year are:

**Kick off Picnic**
August 22, 2010, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Anderson Park, Normal

**Pizza Party**
November 3, 2010, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Rachel Cooper, room 237

**Spring Social**
March 3, 2011, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Visor Center, Vrooman Center, room 12

The WMN has many benefits such as a listserv for its members that supplies valuable information such as scholarships and other information that is valuable to nontraditional students.

If you are interested in becoming a member or for more information, refer to the WMN’s web site at www.mentoringnetwork.iastate.edu or contact Michelle Schulin at 309-438-7100 or mentoringnetwork@ilstu.edu

Helpful Hints

**BEING IN THE KNOW**

Do you have a Facebook account? If so, join the Nontraditional Students at Illinois State group! It’s a great opportunity to connect with other nontraditional students who attend Illinois State and to also receive valuable information.

Other ways you can stay connected to Illinois State are to check the homepage of the Illinois State University web site, www.IllinoisState.edu. By consulting the University Calendar, you can look at events that may be of interest to you.

**STUDY SPOTS**

Are you looking for a place to study while you are on campus? Here’s some suggestions from nontraditional students:

- Milner Library
- Bone Student Center
- The Atrium
- The Courtyard, when it’s nice outside
- 3rd floor lounges

Julia N. Visor Academic Center offers a quiet study area in Vrooman Center, room 12 (between Hewett and Manchester Halls).

**FREE RIDES**

Trying to get around town or campus? The Redbird Ride and Bloomington/Normal Transit System offers free rides to all ISU students! For more information, www.redbirdride.iastate.edu

Nontraditional Student Lunch Buddies!

The Julia N. Visor Academic Center and Nontraditional Student Services offer a time to get together with other nontraditional students and converse over lunch! Bring your lunch and meet up with other nontraditional students. A refrigerator and microwave are available.

**Lunch**

- September 1
- October 6
- November 3
- December 1
- January 19
- February 9
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4

Lunch Buddies will be from 11:00—1:00 p.m. at the Vrooman Center in the Julia N. Visor Academic Center. Hope to see you there!

**Inclement Weather and Emergency Information**

How can you get information fast about whether or not ISU is closed due to weather conditions? Refer to the Illinois State University Home page, www.IllinoisState.edu or any local television news or radio station.

If there is an emergency on campus? Sign up for the emergency alert system on your iCampus portal.

TRIO/Student Support Services at Illinois State

Student Support Services at Illinois State University is a student-oriented program that provides support services to individuals who are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education.

The varieties of supportive services are designed to help program participants maximize their effectiveness as students and make successful progress toward graduation. Student Support Services staff members are dedicated to offering individualized assistance that will enhance the academic, personal, and professional potential of the students who participate in the program.

To be eligible for participation in this program, students need to meet one of the following:

- First generation college student (neither parent graduated from a four-year college/university)
- Have a demonstrated financial need according to federal guidelines
- Have a demonstrated academic need for support services
- Have a documented disability

If you are interested in being a part of this program, fill out an application online at www.ucollege.iastate.edu/mentoring/sss_trio or contact 309-438-2099.
Targeted Retention Services: Our Target Retention Services offers various opportunities for underrepresented populations at Illinois State University, including our V.I.P. program.

The Visor Insider Printing (V.I.P.) program has been established to provide limited printing within the Visor computer/study lab at no charge for various undergraduate students, including nontraditional students, with demonstrated financial need. Students selected for participation in the VIP program will be provided access to a Visor guest copy card. If you wish to be considered for participation in the Visor Insider Printing program during the current semester, you must submit the online application at www.ucollege.ilstu.edu/mentoring/visor/vip. Verification of financial need will be determined by the Financial Aid Office for each applicant.

All services offered at the Visor Center are free for all Illinois State University undergraduate and graduate students. Contact the Center to register or to receive more information on any of our services: 309-438-7100 or VisorCenter@ilstu.edu.

Need some tips on note taking, test taking, stress management, time management, or preparing for finals? The Visor Center offers workshops to help you fine-tune your skills. You can sign up for these workshops on our web site at www.ucollege.ilstu.edu/tutoring/workshops.

Writing Assistance: Our one-on-one writing assistance is here to help students plan, compose, and revise ANY writing project for ANY course. Drop in appointments as well as weekly scheduled appointments are available.