



February 19, 2025

Illinois Community College Trustees Association  
401 E. Capitol, Suite 200  
Springfield, IL 62701-1711

Re: 2025 ICCTA Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award.

Dear ICCTA Awards Committee,

The Illinois Valley Community College Board of Trustees is pleased to recommend Jane Goetz of Ottawa for the ICCTA Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award. Jane Goetz joined IVCC's Foundation Board as a director in 2004 and served in this role until her election to the Board of Trustees in 2013. During her tenure on the Board, which will end in April 2025 after 12 years, she served as the board chair for four years from 2017-2021 and served as the ICCTA Representative from 2021-2023. Those who know Jane through ICCTA have known a dedicated and passionate representative for not only IVCC, but for all community colleges and the students we serve. Jane was recognized in 2022 as a recipient of the ICCTA Trustee Education Award.

Jane's contributions to IVCC over her 21 years of service to both the Foundation and the Board of Trustees are amazing. This commitment was the basis for her selection for the IVCC Spirit Award in 2021. Jane's advocacy for IVCC and the community we serve is tremendous, with the long list of organizations she volunteers for and serves provided. Jane not only serves, but she always steps up to lead. Jane Goetz is the epitome of dedication to our College, to education, and to the community.

She provided stable leadership to IVCC and as she completes her final months of her service to IVCC's Board of Trustees, it would be an honor to have her recognized for her dedication to IVCC, ICCTA, and to our larger communities. The IVCC Board of Trustees wholeheartedly recommends Jane Goetz for the 2025 Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award.

Sincerely,

Everett Solon

Board Chair, Illinois Valley Community College

Illinois Valley Community College is proud to nominate Jane Goetz of Ottawa for the 2025 Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award.

### **Criteria 1: Service as an Officer**

Jane Goetz joined IVCC's Foundation Board as a director in 2004 and served in this role until her election to the Board of Trustees in 2013. During her tenure on the Board, which will end in April 2025 after 12 years, she served as the board chair for four years from 2017-2021. Jane then served as the ICCTA Representative from 2021-2023. Those who know Jane through ICCTA have known a dedicated and passionate representative for not only IVCC, but for all community colleges and the students we serve. Jane was recognized in 2022 as a recipient of the ICCTA Trustee Education Award for participants who have completed 15 or more ICCTA seminars. Jane was also a fantastic representative who then shared this information back with the full Board upon returning.

### **Criteria 2: Community Participation**

Jane is a valued member of our community. Jane's contributions as an educator for her entire career are tremendous and she was also involved in the Illinois Principals Association for 17 years. Jane has served on the Board of Directors for the OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center Foundation for 8 years, Opportunity Preschool Board for 19 years (including a term as president), Board of Directors of the Illinois Valley Flying Club for 16 years (including a term as treasurer), Ottawa YMCA Board of Directors for 6 years (including a current term as President), and as the Chair of the Women Inspired Network Scholarship Committee for two years. In addition, Jane was the Chair of the Ottawa Elementary School Referendum Committee, Co-Chair of the United Way of Eastern LaSalle County Campaign, a community volunteer for Ottawa Garden areas, and a fundraising volunteer for the Resource Development Committee for the Ottawa YMCA Capital Campaign during their 4 year campaign. Jane was awarded the Ethyl Strong Ambassador of the Year for the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce in 2012.

In addition, Jane has been a leader in our local Rotary Organization. Jane has been a member of Ottawa Sunrise rotary for almost 30 years and has served as the President, Newsletter Chair, Fundraising Chair and Grant Writer. She has served the larger Rotary Organization as a Global Grant Consultant for 6 years and another 5.5 years as an Assistant Governor for Area V, which involves

assisting 5 Rotary clubs with completing reports, grants, and recruiting. She was honored with the Rotary District 6420 Foundation Service Award in 2013 and the Rotary Officer of the Year in 2010.

### **Criteria 3: Work in the area of innovative programs for the College**

Jane has been a tremendous advocate for IVCC and has gone above and beyond to support initiatives of the College. When IVCC opened their Ottawa Center, not only did Jane support it, she assisted as a literacy volunteer, helped with the flower beds, and would visit the center on the first day of classes with home-baked goods. As an educator, she has valued insights when the College is coming up with new programs or looking at opportunities to serve students. When we were expanding our food bank on campus, it was a presentation at Ottawa Sunrise Rotary, sponsored by Jane, that connected the College with a donation of a freezer to help expand our services to students.

### **Criteria 4: Service on technical or special committees**

As you can see from the prior section, Jane is a tireless advocate for her community and has served on a number of committees both for education and the community. Related to postsecondary education, currently, Jane is the chair of the Board Planning Committee and a member of the Closed Session Minutes Committee. Jane and her husband Keith are generous supporters of our IVCC Foundation and she also donates her time to assist with reviewing and scoring scholarship applications each year.

### **Criteria 5: Work with Legislators and Legislative Advocacy**

As a Trustee, Jane was active with the ICCTA and with our local legislators who are engaged with our campus.

### **Criteria 6: Contributions to two-year postsecondary education and the College's impact on the community, state or nation**

Jane's contributions to IVCC over her 21 years of service to both the Foundation and the Board of Trustees are amazing. This commitment was the basis for her selection for the IVCC Spirit Award in 2021. The praise for Jane at the time said, "Jane, you could have been content to rest on your

exceptional career as a teacher and principal ... but instead you took your election to our board as a call to action and engagement – and championed our mission.” The Spirit Award, created to honor community members who have made a substantial contribution to the college, has been awarded 11 times 2004 to 2011 and is limited to those who make the greatest impact.

Jane is always the first Trustee to reach out to personally thank staff, faculty and administrators for their work and contributions to the College. She provided stable leadership to IVCC during the pandemic and a security breach. Jane and her husband Keith are charter members of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Society of IVCC, which was established in 2007 to invest in IVCC's most promising second-year students who will graduate or transfer to an institution of higher education. This giving society has awarded over \$231,000 to over 200 IVCC students and Jane and Keith have been a part of this group every year since its founding.

#### **Criteria 7: Engagement with postsecondary associations at the state, regional or national level**

Those who know Jane through ICCTA have known a dedicated and passionate representative for not only IVCC, but for all community colleges and the students we serve. Jane was recognized in 2022 as a recipient of the ICCTA Trustee Education Award for participants who have completed 15 or more ICCTA seminars. She continues to serve as our alternate delegate to the ICCTA.

#### **Criteria 8: Presentations and publications related to postsecondary education**

Jane's role as an advocate has been based more in action than in publications and presentations. As has been outlined, she is a tireless advocate for community colleges, and especially for IVCC.

#### **Summary**

Jane Goetz is the epitome of dedication to our College, to education, and to the community. As she completes her final months of her term, it would be an honor to have her recognized for her dedication to IVCC, ICCTA, and to our larger communities.