

Illinois Association of Student Councils

REPORTER



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Letter from the President



Hello everyone! I hope all your homecomings went well! We all have time to breathe now, right? We have moved on into workshop season. All IASC workshops are put on by Mrs. Kari Ebens, the IASC Work-

shop Director. She brings fun and excitement to all events, but leaves you pondering over new ideas in student council. Workshops are one of my favorite parts about the IASC. These workshops are a great way to exchange different opinions and ideas about student council - anything from homecoming, fundraisers, participation, to even different positions on your executive board. The knowledge gained from going to a workshop is priceless and the friends you make will last a lifetime. It is truly a great benefit not only to yourself as a leader, but the council in your school and community as a whole. I encourage everyone to try and make it to a workshop. I hope to see you there!

Derek Lahey,
IASC President

president@illinoisstuco.org



2015-16 **Meet your IASC Officers**

President– Derek Lahey



Hello! My name is Derek Lahey and I am honored to be your 2015-2016 IASC President! I am currently a senior at Taylorville High School, where I participate in several clubs including School Spirit, Key Club, National Honor Society, and my favorite - Student Council! I play left wing for the soccer team and pole vault for the track team. In my spare time (more like stress relief), I like to ride around on my four wheeler, dirt bike, and especially my snowmobiles. I have been actively involved in the IASC before and it has now turned into my passion. I'm so excited for all activities I will be a part of this year with the IASC and I can't wait to experience all of them with you!

2nd Vice President– Alec Roth



My name is Alec Roth, and I am your 2015-2016 IASC 2nd Vice President. I attend Wilmington High School, in Wilmington, IL and I have been an active part of my student council since my freshman year. I contribute a lot of my success in student council to my advisor, Mrs. Kilgore, the 2015 IASC Advisor of the Year. I have been involved on our executive board at Wilmington for three years, currently serving my second year as President. I was also President of the Prairie 8 district for my junior year, and now serve as the State's 2nd Vice President. Outside of student council, I also hold a job at Bellettini Foods, a local grocery store, as a cashier. I also coach two youth soccer teams, composed of all 4 and 5 year olds. Although this requires a lot of patience, I love doing it! I will also be Wilmington's yearbook editor for the 2015-2016 publication. My favorite quote comes from my idol, Sarah Palin (no, that's not a joke): "We need leaders who will stand up for the little guy and listen once again." I challenge all you student council representatives across Illinois to be those leaders. I hope to see all of you making a difference and accomplishing a lot within the next year.

1st Vice President– Jase Lucas



My name is Jase Lucas and I am proud to be your IASC First Vice President. I am a senior at Mount Vernon Township High School where I will be serving my fourth year on student council and my first as Student Body President. At MVTHS, I also work as editor of the yearbook, newspaper editor, drum major of the marching band, SADD president, and am a member of the International Thespian Society and National Honor Society. I have spent two years on the board of the Little Egypt District of Student Councils, presented at the 2014 LEAD conference, and helped to host the 2015 IASC convention. Outside of school, I am the Sales and Marketing Coordinator at Byrd-Watson Hometown Pharmacy and Medical Equipment Specialists, and direct summer and kids' programs at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. I will be dedicating my term as 1VP to improving the round table moderator and discussion group leader programs, by focusing on the wants and needs of the members of the IASC. I believe that everyone is born with the ability to lead, and that all leaders are responsible for building new leaders. I am so excited to work with each school in Illinois this year to develop our leadership and improve the IASC.



Secretary– Olivia Ross



Hello fellow leaders, I'm Olivia Ross, your 2015-2016 IASC Secretary! I'm super excited to begin my senior year at Cumberland High School, where I'm not only involved in student council, but many other clubs and organizations, such as National Honor Society; Spanish Club; and Yearbook. This will also be my seventh year running cross country. My student council experience has been great so far! During my sophomore year, I was the Eastern District's District-State Liaison, as well as my council's Historian. Junior year, I was President of my council. Now, I'm fortunate enough to be on the IASC Executive Board, and I can't wait to see what lies ahead! One of the many fantastic aspects of student council is meeting new people. Speaking of that, I'm so excited to start working with Derek, Jase, Alec, Ben, Anna, and Brandon! I know it will be a great year. To end my bio, I want to share what I believe to be the most important quality of a leader—selflessness. Leaders must put others before themselves in many, if not all, situations. I aspire to be a selfless leader everyday. Like Audrey Hepburn once said, "Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, it's at the end of your arm."

Treasurer– Ben Frey



Hello everyone! My name is Ben Frey and I am your 2015-2016 IASC treasurer. I joined my school's student council as a freshman at Collinsville High School. I also participate in my school's Executive Board, Latin club, and other various clubs. Student council has taught me a ton and has helped shape me into the person I am today. I am excited to serve on the IASC board and cannot wait to see what this year brings!

Convention Secretary– Anna Saltzgiver



Hello! My name is Anna Saltzgiver and I am the IASC Convention Secretary. I am a senior at Byron High School and can't wait to see what this next year brings me. I have been in student council since 7th grade. Along with student council, I am very active in music (band and choir), art, and theater. I love to do service projects and dedicate a lot of time to them. I have a sister who is 6 and brother who is 11, and they are my best friends. My brother is autistic so I devote time to help him learn and, at the same time, he teaches me about accepting everyone around me. My mission in life is be inspired to inspire. I want to inspire people to have a great life and to pursue their dreams. With that being said, follow your dreams, you never know where they can take you.

Asst. Communications Director– Brandon Albrecht



Hello student council leaders! I am Brandon Albrecht, and I am so excited to be your 2015-2016 IASC Assistant Communications Director. I am currently a junior at Amboy High School and getting ready to serve my third year on student council and I can't wait to see what the next two years bring me! At school, I am the co-editor and business manager of the yearbook, assistant drum major and vice president of band, vice president of my local student council, and am a member of chorus, FFA, and spring musicals. I also work at Woodhaven Lakes in the recreation department. My job consists of being an attendant, supervisor, and family fun nights coordinator. My favorite leadership quote is "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." This was said by John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States of America. I appreciate this quote greatly for I constantly reflect on it when making important student council decisions. This year, I will work under this quote as I promote the values and events of the IASC. I can't wait for the rest of this year.

Happy leading!!

IASC Summer Leadership Camp

July 20-24, 2015

Millikin University



The IASC Summer Leadership Camp, held at Millikin University, underwent a makeover this year. The camp was led by a very special speaker and IASC friend, A'ric Jackson. A'ric brought his unique style of leadership training to Illinois, recreating what an IASC Summer Camp is. Almost 60 participants attended to check out the new style of the program. The senior counselors at this event were Allison Hemmer, Austin Dean, Cassie Kilgore, Linda Pickett, and Luz Huermo. The IASC state officers were happy to serve as the junior counselors. In attendance was Derek Lahey, Alec Roth, Olivia Ross, Anna Saltzgeber, and Brandon Albrecht. Of course, this camp was planned and organized by the IASC Workshop Director, Kari Ebens, who did a fantastic job!

Following are some attendee's thoughts about their IASC Summer Leadership Camp experience.





Going into the camp, I was nervous to say the least. Giving up a week of my summer to go to a leadership camp going into my senior year was definitely not the norm. I wasn't sure who I'd be rooming with, if I was ever going to see my friends from my home school, or if I'd even have any fun. We arrived, after a long 3 hour car ride, to a friendly face in a yellow shirt who helped us park -even though we were all yelling and directing at the same time. Upon the first session, I knew that this camp was not going to be like any others that I had ever attended before. The camp leader, A'ric Jackson, started the camp with energy, enthusiasm, and some hilarious, but awful, jokes. He was able to make the room of 60 plus nervous high schoolers light and relaxed within the first few things that he said and did. I looked to the girl that was sitting next to me and said "Well - I definitely don't think this is going to be boring," and she smiled back because everyone was pretty much on the same page by this point. Just being in a new atmosphere can make most people nervous and shy. I mean, I was nervous and afraid to be outspoken for fear of being judged. But I quickly learned that these were not those kinds of people. One of the first activities that we had to do was come up with a team cheer. We were team B and our theme was pirates. We were tasked with creating a roll call chant that was to be performed and judged for points that were added to our team score. None of us knew each other, so there was that awkward pause of silence before someone decided to speak up. Although our cheer ended up being basically terrible and we couldn't even remember it during our performance, we gave 110% and never looked back, which quickly became our motto for the rest of the week. Giving all of our effort defined our experience for camp. A'ric kept repeating that we were only going to get as much out of the activities that we were doing as we were putting in, and he couldn't have been more right. The activities that we participated in, sometimes difficult, uncomfortable, and a little scary, were not worth anything if you were not willing to give all of yourself to it. No one would understand the benefit of staring at a stranger in the eyes for two minutes unless they participated fully, not laughing or looking away, as was very tempting. This camp taught me the importance of giving anything, whether it be a project, an event, a

cause, and even a person, all of my effort and attention because, without it, it's meaningless. And, if you try and don't succeed, it doesn't mean you should stop trying. My group lost almost every activity that we participated in, but that didn't mean that when A'ric announced the winners of last place we didn't stand up and yell our cheer (that we changed and could actually remember) at the top of our lungs and go crazy. We were proud of our effort, we knew we lost but we didn't stop giving 110% for every activity that we did because there was always that one chance that we would come out victorious. Overall, this camp gave me a lot; my leadership style, helpful activities to bring back to my school, but, mostly importantly, some amazingly awesome friends. One of the most important things I took out of camp was that you don't have to do everything on your own- there are amazing people all around you that have incredible thoughts and passions that you will never know unless you take the time to listen. Listening is one of the simplest, yet most effective, qualities of being a leader. As A'ric so beautifully put it, you have to put on a filter when you're talking to someone, and you have to put on your listening filter which allows you to listen to solely what that person is saying and nothing else. In an age of constant technology, having a conversation with someone can sometimes be frustrating as you feel like you're competing for the person's full attention. So take time to listen, really listen, to someone and you will learn so much more than you could ever imagine. If you ever get the chance to attend Millikin Summer Camp, I highly suggest it. You get to learn so much about yourself and others and I guarantee it will not be just another camp filled with monotonous leadership activities. You will laugh until you feel like you can't breathe, probably shed a few tears, and make irreplaceable memories and friends that make you feel and know that you have the power to impact the world in any way that you choose if you set out and put your mind to it. You have the materials, you just need to set your plan in motion to create the change that you want to see - not only in your school, but in the world .

-Kelly Polte





When I first walked through the doors of Millikin University, I thought I knew what the next three days would be like. It felt like déjà vu, but I really had been here exactly one year ago. I had such a great experience, that I knew that this year would be the same. Little did I know that this year would be an emotional roller coaster.

We all met up in a room and we received an introduction by the wonderful Kari Ebens, workshop director, and a very special guest. A'ric Jackson had agreed to teach us about leadership and guide us through this journey in a very unique way. From staring at a partner for a few minutes at a time to finding my own leadership style through a series of yes or no questions, each moment I spent at camp was unforgettable and fun. Instead of sitting in a chair for four hours and listening to someone explain to us what a leader is and how to be one, we were challenged to work together as a team and be active. Every day began with a song or a cheer that our groups had created. That's another aspect of camp that I enjoyed.

All sixty of us were divided into groups led by a senior counselor and a junior counselor. The amazing part was that each junior counselor was a member of the state student council executive board. Instead of seeing them from afar, we got the opportunity to get to know them as people, peers, and friends. Each group created a cheer that we continued to use for the remainder of the week. The small group sessions also helped me say things that I didn't have the assertiveness to say in a larger group. The sessions let me get to know my group and myself better. I learned a lot about myself in those sessions.

It wasn't all about leadership, though - it was also about human contact. As a group, we each worked together to win a series of challenges given to us throughout the week. The challenges were educational and also provided an opportunity for us to bond as a team. We were all competitive to the last challenge given Wednesday night when the junior counselors had to decide who was the best "twerker." The challenges were also a great opportunity for us to break out of our comfort zone.

The counselors were supportive, and I was happy to see Allison Hemmer come back to serve as a senior counselor and to get to meet Austin Dean, as well. They got to know us and gave insightful advice on how to improve our district councils.

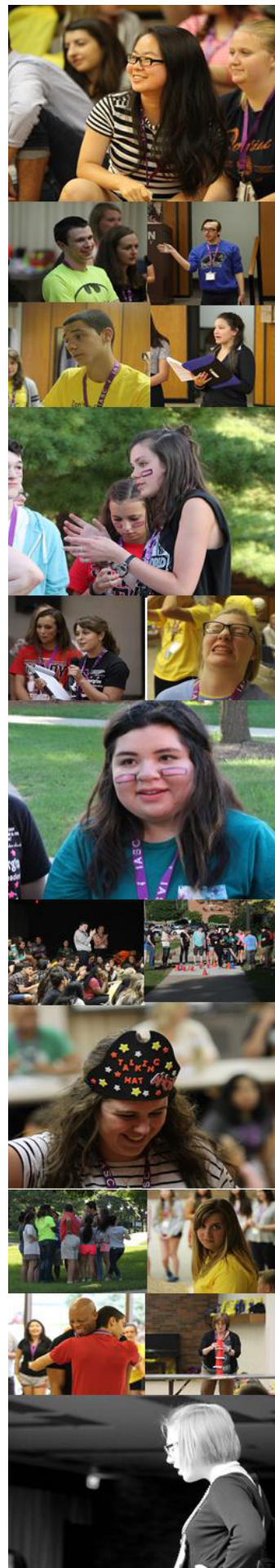
On our last night, all tears broke loose. We witnessed our home for the past three days get tarnished but worked as a team to salvage what we could and make it look good again. That last day was a flood tears for all us—we realized it was our last day together. We saw how much we had grown and learned. It was bittersweet. We finished the day off with a competitive relay race among all teams and one last group picture. The next day felt like a normal day at camp, but it wasn't - it was time to say good bye - for a while, anyway.

This experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to grow and learn and to meet new people from across the state. That's why I recommend each student to attend the IASC Leadership Summer Camp, at least once. And if you do, attend - BRING IT!

-Jocelyn Bravo

The IASC summer camp was totally different this year! I learned that nothing stands in the way of accomplishing my dreams, and learned to help others accomplish their dreams, also. My favorite part of summer leadership camp was the team Olympic games (Go Team E!). The bonds I formed with my fellow teammates will last a lifetime.

- Samuel Reiss





Linda Pickett
Columbia High School

2015 Warren E. Shull
High School Advisor of the Year

I have been a student council advisor for the past 13 years. My three favorite memories from student council are: 1) I took a group of students to the Kaskaskia District Convention at Centralia High School. When I attended the Advisor's Meeting they needed someone to volunteer to host the next district convention, which I was willing to do. I then had to go to my students at lunch and ask if anyone was interested in serving as the District Convention Secretary and Zeke Sexauer volunteered. Neither of us knew what we were doing, but through the support from the district board and advisors, as well as the support of our local council and administration at Columbia High School, we hosted a great conference and had fun with it! Sometimes you just have to jump in and do it! That was the beginning of our involvement on the district level. 2) We (myself with 2 students - Kaitlyn Stoner and Morgan Burkemper) attended our first LEAD conference and were so moved by all the enthusiasm and awesome ideas presented. We collected tab tops for Ronald McDonald House as the conference service project and walked in with many more tab tops than we ever expected. The students, as well as myself, were exposed to so many ideas that we could not stop discussing them upon our 5 hour drive back from Chicago. As soon as we returned, the two girls immediately implemented their ideas. I could not believe the number of ideas they had their few months of school after LEAD. Watching how these students moved our student body was a very proud moment for myself as an advisor! We have not missed a LEAD Conference since that first one! 3) There are many memories, so I have to say that I have loved watching every student who has implemented a new program or who has led a committee for the first time, or who has made a difference in one way or another, to summarize my 3rd favorite memory! I have watched several students grow and mature into wonderful young people taking on leadership responsibilities, which are not always so easy to take on. I LOVE to watch when something works, but also enjoy the growth that takes place when something does not work. Those students who have become local, district, and state leaders I applaud, but I also cannot forget all the worker-bees or those who are behind the scenes who also make things happen! I applaud all student council members who have made the programs at our school happen!

While standing on stage at the National Convention in Albuquerque with the other finalists from across the United States, I felt very honored and proud! I was humbled in the presence of so many advisors from across the country that were just as deserving as myself to receive this prestigious award! I share this honor with my student council mentors, Kyle Gordon and Gary Clark, as well as all the other student council advisors with whom I have had the privilege to share ideas and work with through student council on all levels! I could not have received the honor without the students from Columbia High School who stepped up to enthusiastically carry out the wonderful programs for our students, staff, and our community! I also share this with my fellow staff-ulty at Columbia, as I have been provided support from our administration and co-workers from beginning to end of many activities! I am truly blessed!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

Cassie Kilgore

2015 Illinois

Advisor of the Year Award 2015!



2015 Workshops

Drive In Workshops:

WHEN:	HOSTED BY:	WHERE:
September 21st	KDSC	Four Points Sheraton, Fairview Heights, IL
October 17th	Taylorville HS	Taylorville, IL
November 6th	Wilmington HS	Wilmington, IL
November 7th	John Hancock HS	Chicago, IL



DYNAMICS OF TRUST/ADVANCED WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 23-25, 2015

HELD AT LAKE WILLIAMSON CENTER

IN CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS.

2015 IASC STATE CONVENTION

The 2015 Illinois Association of Student Councils State Convention was held at the Westin Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. All thirteen districts of the state came together and formed one IASC. Convention began on Friday May 7, 2015 at 7:00PM with the banging of the gavel by the IASC President, Matt Bourke, calling us to order.

There wasn't a dull moment for the rest of the weekend. The convention was jam-packed with activities and sessions.

We had sensational speakers, including Houston Kraft and Judson Laipply. Mr. Kraft shared his message called "Choose Love." He reminded us that while we can't choose how we feel, we can choose how we act. The world might be a scary place, but we can choose to fill it with love.





We were then entertained by Judson Laipply, the inspirational comedian and creator of the YouTube sensation, “Evolution of Dance.” Judson shared his knowledge of change, and what it can do for the world. He then taught us a new and modernized version of the “Evolution of Dance.”

With state convention number eighty-one officially in the books, new friends were made, new leaders were born, and current leaders became better than they ever thought they could.

**See you at the
2016 IASC Convention
May 5th through May 7th
in Springfield!**



**THE IASC is
Everywhere
you are!**



@IllinoisStuCo