

# Illinois Voice

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## Special points of interest:

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- SWIC taking Action
- Richland Community College gives back
- Get prepared, SLC is right around the corner
- Fall Seminar for the first time

## A Message from our President

Happy Holidays Illinois Phi Beta Lambda! Another semester has come to a close, and as many of us are relieved to be finished, or finishing finals, I implore you to stay true to the paradigms of the PBL crest of Progress, Service, and Education and help those less fortunate than ourselves. Please remember that as leaders it is our responsibility, and our privilege to serve our communities in the best manner possible.

Winter Break provides many of us a much needed break from the academic rigor of our lives, but that doesn't mean that our chapters have to put our activity level on hold. Try and get a few members of your chapter together to volunteer at local shelters or food pantries or put on some warm clothing and shovel sidewalks for your neighborhood. Perhaps your chapter could visit a nursing home and converse with residents who could use some friend-

ly conversation around the holidays.

The holiday season also leaves ample opportunity for fundraisers or other charity work such as raffle baskets, food drives, or get involved with a local Toys-for-Tots, or Angel Tree project

in your community. If there are no opportunities like these where you live then what a perfect time to start one! Take the opportunity and be the change that your community needs.

In the words of Marianne Williamson, "as we let our own light shine we unconsciously give people permission to do the same." Positive change can begin with one person. Even the smallest chapter is capable of producing amazing results when there is the will to do so. As leaders, we are all role models, at all times, whether we want to be or not.



These charitable acts do more than make your chapter look good or develop you as a person; they encourage others to get involved as well.

PBL or not, we are all only given one life. If this world is where we have to experience that life, then use the time you're given to change it for the better.

Sincerely yours,

Christopher L. Pulec

Illinois Phi Beta Lambda-  
State President

November Blog by: Candi Pucek

## Prematurity Awareness Month

As most of you know, November is Prematurity Awareness Month. As a member of Phi Beta Lambda we know how involved this organization is with March of Dimes (MOD). I personally have a great passion for MOD, and here is why.

On June 19, 2006, at 32 weeks of my pregnancy I went to my doctor's appointment for my regular checkup. Little did I know that I was going to have to go in for a stress test followed by an emergency c-section. Needless to say my little Carter was born at 32 ½ weeks. That's 7 ½ weeks early. He was 6 lbs 2 oz. and 19 in long. I thought everything would be fine because he was a normal size baby. Before I could come out of recovery my little baby was rushed to St. Johns Hospital and admitted into their NICU. They said that he was born with a heart murmur and his lungs had not developed so he could not breathe on his own. I was terrified; I didn't know what that meant for him. Finally after I was able to get out of the hospital I went to Springfield, which was 30 miles away from where I lived. My baby was in an incubator, and all around were other babies that were premature as well. The only difference was my baby looked full size. There were babies in there that would literally fit in the palm of your hand, and they all had some similar issues. Carter was on a ventilator, had a feeding tube, and was hooked up to so many different machines. When I got to visit him I couldn't even hold him, I

had to touch him through the incubator. He didn't get to eat from a bottle for the first time until he was a few weeks old. This is actually a good thing for a preemie. Finally after almost 2 months I was able to bring my little Carter home, he came home at 5 lbs 1 oz. Throughout the last 5 years he has had to undergo many different obstacles. As a preemie he was at risk for breathing complications, increased ear infections, and is a little smaller than some his age. Carter has to have regular breathing treatments to help with his asthma, and now has an inhaler that he uses daily to help prevent attacks.



Now you may be asking yourself, why is she telling me this? Well that is because MOD focuses on helping families with babies in a NICU. They also support research aimed at preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Our goal as a state is to contribute 20% more to March of Dimes than last year. On the local level we would like to see each chapter contribute \$50 more than they did they year before. I really want us to succeed at this. There are many opportunities to raise money for MOD. For example, on my local level we will be attempting to create a mile of

dimes to raise money for MOD. Also don't forget that as a state we are going to have a "Walk across Illinois" event in the spring. More details to come.

Now that we know what our goals as a state are, what are we going to do about it? Here is my challenge to you, let's get involved in a MOD fundraiser, and help raise awareness. With all of us working together we could help a family see their baby. Or even help a mother carry to term.

Happy November,

Candi Pucek

—IL PBL State Secretary

**"Our goal as a state is to contribute 20% more to March of Dimes than last year. On the local level we would like to see each chapter contribute \$50 more than they did they year before" —Candi Pucek**

By: Courtney McGowan



## Making Strides

Hope is an aspiring quality instilled in humans every day. This quality of personality begins with a simple act and often shown through a generous gift by a monetary donation or the presence of a supporter. Hope is the last opportunity for change to occur.

Southwestern Illinois College is Making Strides toward the Gateway to Greatness. On October 29, Phi Beta Lambda members at a 5k walk hosted by the American Cancer Society inspired hope. Making Strides is not just a walk, it is a day dedicated to honoring survivors and remembering lost loved ones. This becomes a truly inspiring opportunity to gather and celebrate the achievements were made toward ending breast cancer. Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) Abe Small Chapter members are grateful to witness this unity of supporters for Breast Cancer research.

One month prior to the event, SWIC PBL chapter members participated by collecting funds in support of breast cancer research. Officers of SWIC PBL chapter shared our purpose

of walking at the event with our family, friends, and business associates through a personal email, a friendly phone call, and social networking. Members of SWIC PBL chapter promoted our Making Strides team at a fundraising event by selling Otis Spunkmeyer cookies with pink M&M's.

The Phi Beta Lambda organization promotes the same skills displayed in this community service project. One exceptional skill shown through the development of this community service project is networking and advocacy. Through outside collaborative

efforts a team t-shirt was designed for Phi Beta Lambda. A recent Graphic Design graduate of SWIC created a tee to demonstrate the support of breast cancer research with a business emphasis. SWIC PBL Chapter Making Strides team received publicity on Today in Saint Louis by the Team Leader and Community Service Chair, Natalie Wellen and I. Three days prior to the event, Natalie and Courtney shared fundraising efforts to later air on KSDK in traditional pink gear.

One thousand pairs of feet gathered to enjoy a 5K walk hosted in Belleville, IL and raised \$30,000 in support of those losing and winning the battle against Breast Cancer. Phi Beta Lambda contributed by raising

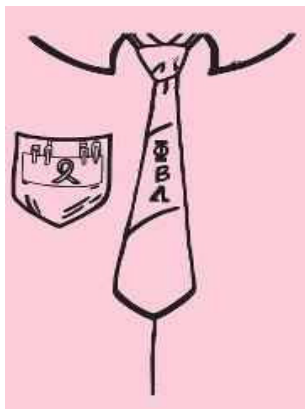
more than \$950 with 24 participants present. Support ensures that the American Cancer Society can be present in your community-every day of the year, creating the power to Pink Differently. SWIC PBL Chapter pinks differently by continuing to collect donations in support of breast cancer research through the month of November.

Hope is not an aspiration; it is a state of mind. Hope creates another to live. Live to the fullest. Live with no regrets, and strive to do the best. Phi Beta Lambda is leading the way to a

**"It is a day dedicated to honoring survivors and remembering lost loved ones." – Courtney McGowan**

hopeful for those affected by Breast Cancer. SWIC PBL makes a continuous stride in the journey towards less cancer and more birthdays and to the Gateway to Greatness.

-Courtney McGowan, SWIC



**Mark your calendars:  
Winter Seminar Series  
Saturday, January 28, 2012  
Eastern Illinois University,  
Lumpkin Hall  
Charleston, Illinois  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
More information to follow!**

By: Amanda Gray

## Leadership In Action

My name is Amanda Gray and I am secretary of Richland Community College chapter of Phi Beta Lambda. When I joined Phi Beta Lambda I was told that I would be given opportunities to show my leadership, and recently I was given that opportunity. Towards the end of last semester we as a chapter decided to go to a local residential boy's home for boys who are involved with DCFS, and most are wards of the state, called Webster Cantrell Hall. When I first walked in to this place I had no idea what to expect out of these young men, but I now know that this will be an experience I will never forget.

When we, as a chapter, went into Webster we had a plan to do twelve workshops on many things ranging from college preparation to time management. These workshops were so helpful to these young men and also to me. Six workshops into the twelve that we were doing, I was given the leadership role. Being given the opportunity to step into a leadership role was something that originally scared me, but ultimately made me a great leader. I used many of the things that PBL has taught me such as

time management and was amazed at how much this organization had done for me in such a short time. The best part of these workshops, however, was watching the change that was made in every one of these boys that has forever molded the way I see others and myself. This gave me an opportunity to make difference in these young men's lives, but also to become a better leader and learn how to command respect.

In all, this organization taught me how to be a good leader, and I in turn tried to teach these young men to do the same. Walking in to Webster I was worried I would not be respected, but I learned how to command respect which is something that I will never forget. However, the best part of these workshops was watching the amazing change that happened in these young men; some decided to go to college because of what we did. Another huge thing that I saw was how these young men realized what it was like to truly respect someone. I loved being able to make a difference in someone's life just because I was in it. I look forward

to being given an opportunity to do this again, and I can honestly say it is because of this organization that I was able to do that and realize that I am now a leader.

Regards,

Amanda Gray

**"Being given the opportunity to step into a leadership role was something that originally scared me, but ultimately made me a great leader" –**

**Amanda Gray**



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By: Chris Pulec

## Eye On the Prize: Let's Get Ready to Rumble!

The coming Spring Semester brings many things to many people. For some of us, spring brings yet another step on our educational path. For others, spring brings graduation and the culmination of a multi-year goal. But spring holds one more thing for PBL members, the State Leadership Conference and our first opportunity to participate in our Competitive Events Program.

You may be thinking, "it's kind of early to be thinking about competitive events in April, isn't it?!"

But nothing could be further from the truth. For those who want to win, who want to be invited to compete at nationals in June, and who want to place among the best in the nation in their category, the time to start planning is now. At the State conference each person may compete in up to five (5) events, no more than three (3) of which may be a presentation and/or speech. For information on each event check the national website at: <http://www.fbla-pbl.org/web/page/660/sectionid/585/pagelevel/2/pbl.asp>

Take the free time of Winter Break to begin studying, or find coaches

for your selected events. You would be surprised how many professors will take the time to help you study in a nationally recognized event. Take time to go over the registration information on the state website when it becomes available to get registered for those events.

[www.il-fblapbl.org/pbl](http://www.il-fblapbl.org/pbl)

I have placed nationally two years in a row, and both years I started thinking about competition in November. I started studying in January and the preparation paid off as I've placed five times at the state level, and two consecutive years at nationals. The challenge, the exhilaration, and the feeling of having all that hard work pay off is indescribable. The scholarship money isn't bad either! Ask any PBL member who has placed nationally, the feeling of being one of the best in the country at your selected event is amazing. Bringing trophies back to your school makes your chapter look good, makes you look good, and makes you that much better than your competition when it comes to looking for internships and jobs.

Competition is not the sole reason of being a PBL member. But competition certainly does add some variety to our ed-

ucational experiences. So now is the time to start planning. It is not required to start thinking about competing at the State Leadership Conference so soon. But if you haven't you are already playing catch up to those who have.

-Chris Pulec

### Calendar of Events:

**WSS: Jan 28, 2012 Eastern**

**FBLA-PBL Week: Feb 5-11**

**Adviser appreciation day:  
Feb 8, 2012**

**Professional Dress day:  
Feb 10, 2012**

**Community Service Day:  
Feb 11, 2012**

**SLC: April 13-14, 2012  
Effingham**

**NLC: Jun 24-27, 2012  
San Antonio TX**

**"Competition is not the sole reason of being a PBL member. But competition certainly does add some variety to our educational experiences." - Chris Pulec IL PBL State President**



## Thank you from your 2011-2012 officer team:

State President: Chris Pulec  
State Vice President: Aaron Nickson  
State Secretary: Candi Pucek  
State Treasurer: James Murphy  
State Parliamentarian: Kathy Chen

State Adviser: Tina Dierkes  
State Liaison: Kevin Hoffman  
FBLA-PBL State Chair: Darlene Shannon

**Gateway To Greatness!**

[www.il-fblapbl.org/pbl](http://www.il-fblapbl.org/pbl)



**Phi Beta Lambda**

Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) education association with a quarter million students preparing for careers in business and business-related fields. The association has four divisions:

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for high school students;

FBLA-Middle Level for junior high, middle, and intermediate school students;

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) for postsecondary students; and

Professional Division for businesspeople, FBLA-PBL alumni, educators, and parents who support the goals of the association.

FBLA-PBL is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, and organized on local, state, and national levels. Business teachers, advisers, and advisory councils (including school officials, businesspeople, and community representatives) guide local chapters. State advisers and committee members coordinate chapter activities for the national organization.

The FBLA concept was developed in 1937 by Dr. Hamden L. Forkner of Columbia University. The first high school chapter was chartered in Johnson City, Tennessee on February 3, 1942. In 1958, the first PBL collegiate chapter was chartered in Iowa. The Professional Division, originally the Alumni Division, began in 1979. Joining FBLA-PBL in 1994 was the FBLA-Middle Level for students in grades 5-9.

The national board of directors is comprised of local teachers, state educators, business leaders, and the division presidents.

## Fall Seminar Series By: Megan Cundiff

Upon joining Phi Beta Lambda, I immediately went to the Fall Seminar Series at McKendree in Lebanon. Without completely knowing what I was in for, FSS surprised me in many ways. Not only were the speakers inspirational but the workshops that were provided amazed me as well.

One workshop that I attended referred to the CMAP/Ambassador program, which encouraged me to submit my application to be an Ambassador. The workshop was very informational and showed me everything I needed to successfully complete both CMAP and Ambassador Program.

The second workshop I attended was the "Bag of Tricks." Not only was this workshop creative and fun, it was also very educational and gave me ideas for future endeavors.

After the first workshop, an awesome complementary lunch was provided by McKendree. After the second workshop, Mike Lechwar was our keynote speaker. His presentation was down to earth and very engaging, which kept me interested all the way through. His wide variety of information on career readiness and knowing our own strengths and weaknesses will help me gain future success in a career.

