

Illinois Central College

One College Drive • East Peoria, IL 61635
November 22, 2002; revised January 10, 2003

Excerpts from Letters and Other Evidence of Support

<i>Date</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Significant Points of Support</i>
August 29, 2002	Glen Barton Chairman and CEO Caterpillar Inc. Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "Illinois Central College has expressed interest in using the facility [Zeller Mental Health Center]. I wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of Caterpillar's interest and support of this proposal."▪ "I believe the ICC proposal represents a silver lining in what might be viewed as a dark cloud."
September 5, 2002	The Honorable Ray LaHood United States Representative 18 th District – Illinois Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "Thank you for your leadership in making available Zeller Mental Health Center to Illinois Central College. I believe very strongly that this has great potential for Illinois Central College and the citizens of the district that it serves."▪ "I support your efforts and give you all the encouragement that you need."
October 2, 2002	Sandra J. Birdsall Chairman The Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce Letter to Governor Ryan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "On behalf of our 1200 business members, the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce urges you to support the use of the existing Zeller Mental Health Center by Illinois Central College. We believe this is an ideal opportunity for our community to make use of our available facility."▪ "This will benefit and bring into a new type of partnership the Peoria Public Schools, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, the local medical community along with ICC."▪ "We urge you to support this creative re-use of state property, which will in the long run save all taxpayers significant sums of money."
September 17, 2002	Douglas Stewart Chairman Peoria Civic Federation Letter to Governor Ryan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "The Federation members voted unanimously to support ICC's efforts to obtain the property."▪ "We believe arranging for ICC to acquire this property is in the best interest of the community and encourage you to move forward with arranging this acquisition."
October 13, 2002	James G. Sherman President and CEO Children's Home Association of Illinois Letter to the <i>Peoria Journal Star</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "Children's Home Association of Illinois supports the proposal for Illinois Central College to expand its facilities to the former Zeller Mental Health Center."▪ "The plan proposed by ICC offers many possibilities to the community and to our client base. The children and families we serve would benefit greatly from the programs that ICC would like to locate at the Zeller facility, particularly the expansion of vocational and technical training."▪ "We believe the use of the Zeller property by ICC is a cost-effective proposal that will positively impact this community in many ways. And if there were ever a time for cost-effectiveness, it is now."
August 6, 2002	Donald E. Rager, M.D. Regional Dean College of Medicine at Peoria University of Illinois at Chicago Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "The impending closure of the Zeller Mental Health Facility provides the University of Illinois College of Medicine an opportunity to expand its current operations...in conjunction with the multiple new and expanded programs that Illinois Central College envisions for the location."▪ "Please consider this proposal in conjunction with the expressed advantages articulated by John Erwin, Ph.D., on behalf of Illinois Central College."

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November 22, 2002	Gary R. Allen (plus six other members of the District 150 Board) President Peoria Public Schools District 150 Letter to the <i>Peoria Journal Star</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “The Peoria Public Schools Board of Education applauds the opportunities which will be available to our students with the opening of an Illinois Central College North campus in the heart of the city.”▪ “We look forward to expanding the already excellent collaborative relationship we enjoy with ICC to provide many more educational opportunities for work force development and for work toward baccalaureate degrees. Many of our students do not have transportation to attend the East Peoria campus, so we welcome this new location. The future of public education in Peoria will undoubtedly be strengthened.▪ “We only wish the community representatives would unite behind this momentous opportunity for the Greater Peoria area. We urge our local legislators to do what is best for their constituents: support this fantastic proposal, or get out of the way of progress in Peoria.”
August 27, 2002	David P. Ransburg Mayor City of Peoria Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “I would like to add my personal support to the concept of Illinois Central College ending up with the Zeller Mental Health Facility....”
September 27, 2002	Richard W. Blaudow President and CEO ATS – Advanced Technology Services Peoria, Illinois Letter to Governor Ryan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “We agree with other members [of the Peoria Civic Federation] that ICC is the best equipped as a public entity to utilize this facility [Zeller Mental Health Care Center].”▪ “We believe arranging for ICC to acquire this property is in the best interest of the community and encourage you to move forward with arranging this acquisition. We appreciate your help.”
September 20, 2002	Bruce L. Alkire Executive Vice President The Finch Companies Peoria, Illinois Director – The Illinois Central College Educational Foundation Board Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “As a Director of the Illinois College Foundation Board, I have been continually informed of many future plans of the college. ... As I reflect..., I realize that many of our collective desires could be met if ICC were able to occupy a vacated Zeller Mental Health Center.▪ “Please consider supporting the acquisition of the center by ICC and offering your assistance as needed.”

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October 9, 2002	Lance S. Escue Clark Engineers Peoria Illinois Director – The Illinois Central College Educational Foundation Board Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “The most appropriate organization to make use of the facility [Zeller Mental Health Center] is Illinois Central College.”▪ “As part of the College’s comprehensive plan, community and business leaders indicated a need for greater accessibility for students residing north and west of Peoria. Because of the great number of people who reside in the county and within the City of Peoria, this location will be advantageous in meeting the education and training needs of the greater Peoria area.”▪ “We know that the solid economic future of the community is dependent upon quality opportunities for education and training. Allowing Illinois Central College to further expand its services to provide accessible educational opportunities will benefit citizens of our area, business and industry, our economy, and our future.”
September 20, 2002	Raymond J. Perisin Division President Clark Engineers Earl (Sandy) Moldovan President and CEO Clark Engineers, Inc. Peoria, Illinois Director – Peoria Civic Federation Board Letter to Representative Leitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “As a long time consultant and friend of Illinois Central College, Clark Engineers, Inc., would like to go on record as strongly supporting the potential acquisition of the Zeller Center by Illinois Central College.”▪ “The acquisition of the Zeller Center property would seem to support the College’s commitment to life-long learning throughout its service area. ... The space could well provide more effective and efficient partnering with District 150 and other agencies in Peoria.”▪ “We hope that you will support the efforts of ICC to accomplish this exciting project and turn a difficult community situation into an exceptional community opportunity.”
September 30, 2002	Lynn S. Irons Principal LZT Associates, Inc. Peoria, Illinois Letter to Governor Ryan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “I believe our community college [Illinois Central College] is the best-equipped public entity to utilize the facility.”▪ “I believe arranging for ICC to acquire this property is in the best interest of the community. I encourage you to do all that you can to assure that other state officials work favorably with ICC officials to move forward with arranging the college’s acquisition of the Zeller facility.”
September 25, 2002	Jan Wright Vergon President Central Illinois Business Publishers, Inc. Peoria, Illinois Letter to Governor Ryan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Illinois Central College is a proven valuable asset to our community, and has the resources and the vision to make the best use of this facility.”▪ “Besides being a voice for business through my company, Central Illinois Business Publishers, Inc., I sit on the boards of the Peoria Civic Federation and the Economic Development Council. The hope that Illinois Central College will be granted acquisition of this property is favored by most business and community leaders in the Peoria area.”
September 3, 2002	Peoria Journal Star Editorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Putting a branch of Illinois Central College into some of the empty buildings at the Zeller Center may have made good sense even when the mental health facility still occupied a couple of them. With the last Zeller patients gone, it’s certainly an attractive idea now.”

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October 4, 2002	Peoria Journal Star Editorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “The best plan we’ve seen is to deed it, or significant parts of it, to Illinois Central College so it might establish a branch there.”
November 14, 2002	Mayor David Ransburg Internet web page: www.week.com ; accessed November 14, 2002.	<p>Mayor Ransburg commends the ICC lease of Zeller property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Peoria’s mayor says getting Illinois Central College to move into the Zeller property is a win, win, win situation. Dave Ransburg made the comments during his weekly news conference Thursday. He says he believes the mentally ill will still get the treatment they deserve from hospitals and community agencies. In addition, he says the community will get another opportunity to receive higher education. Ransburg calls ICC a jewel saying it has trained, educated and developed thousands of local residents.”
November 15, 2002	Peoria Journal Star Editorial	<p>Journal Star editorial supports approval of ICC lease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “If Springfield handed Peoria a lemon when it decided to close Zeller Mental Health Center, then it’s handing back the opportunity to make several thousand gallons of lemonade. ...The ICC board should vote yes, with enthusiasm, and the legislators should get out of the way of an opportunity that serves Peoria’s best interests.”
November 21, 2002	Peoria Journal Star Editorial	<p>Journal Star editorial urges legislators to stop trying to block ICC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “The local legislators who are trying to get the state to reopen a portion of Zeller Mental Health Center can continue to tilt at that windmill if they wish. But they should move the battle to where it will not threaten Illinois Central College’s efforts to build a branch on the Zeller property. In short, [they] should abandon any thought of suing the state for leasing Zeller to ICC. If they are right about this area’s need for a smaller center to house the long-term mentally ill, they should look for another site and prepare to support a tax hike to fund it and other programs the state plainly can afford. Furthermore, they should tell state employees’ union leader ... that he won’t have their help if he ever again urges the Legislature, as he did Monday, to withhold funding from ICC as payback for the Zeller takeover.”
November 24, 2001	Dr. Donald E. Rager Regional Dean, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria W. Michael Bryant President and CEO, Methodist Medical Center of Illinois Joint letter to the Peoria <i>Journal Star</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “In the midst of this ongoing noise about the Zeller closing and subsequent lease to ICC, we feel compelled to refocus our attention on the future of psychiatric care in Peoria and our most urgent needs in education. Both are best served by the current solution. There has long been an appropriate plan to slowly reduce state-run institutional mental health care delivery and finally move that care into the private sector. The unfortunate closure of Zeller merely accelerated that process. Likewise, a strategy to create an ICC North campus had been planned; again, that plan has simply been accelerated and can now be implemented at a much lower cost to all of us. There was a time when a small, secure unit for care of the few who require long-term institutional care could have been created, but that time has now passed. All the rest seems rhetoric. Turning back the clock of time would be a mistake.”

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November 22, 2002	Tony Feleccia Student, Illinois Central College Letter to the Peoria <i>Journal Star</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “As a second-year student at Illinois Central College, I support the Zeller facility being leased to ICC. ICC has been growing substantially and will continue to do so. ICC is a nationally accredited two-year college that offers a valuable education at low cost, plus a wide variety of activities that four-year schools offer.”▪ “Choosing to go to ICC has been one of the best choices I have made in my life, and I will continue to support ICC as much as I can.”
November 22, 2002	Michael J. Meehan Citizen Letter to the Peoria <i>Journal Star</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “Using the facility instead to fill the need for a projected Illinois Central College North campus is a real win for local residents and all tax-payers.”▪ “Faced with a looming financial crisis in Illinois, our elected representatives should be leading the cheers in the ICC bailout. Instead, some of them continue to advance narrow special interests with a taxpayer-be-damned mindset.”
January 10, 2003	Joseph P. Goett Citizen Letter to the Peoria <i>Journal Star</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ “I say \$1 per year is too expensive. The state should be paying ICC to take Zeller off its hands.”
