
The Illinois Association of Student Councils

The Reporter

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The Reporter
Winter 2018
Cover- 1
Table of Contents- 2
Message From President- 3
State Convention- 4
Workshop Corner-5
Alumni Interview- 6-7
Local Council Feature- 8



The Reporter is the official publication of the Illinois Association of Student Councils, published quarterly for students, advisors and friends of the association.

Any comments or news items can be emailed to reporter@illinoisstuco.org.

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From the Desk of President Rock

Greetings IASC Student Leaders and Advisers!

I hope everyone has had a tremendous first half of the school year! The IASC Executive Board is hard at work preparing for the 84th State Convention.

As President, I have been focusing on our State Service Project – Let it Be Us which is a non-profit organization that strives to find foster care children in Illinois their forever families. This Service Project is unique compared to those in the past. This year, I have decided that a great way to support this organization would be to put together “Back to School Supply Bags” and schools will be able to donate these bags to a location within their IASC district. All of the information for this project is on the IASC website under the “Service Project” tab. As of today, 40 “Back to School Supply Bags” have been donated! Keep up the great work and let’s make this service project count. If you have any further questions about the State Service Project, please feel free to reach out!

The theme for this years’ State Convention is “This is Our Time,” so I encourage all of you to make this second half of the year your time to make your communities, councils, and world a better place.

Yours in Service,

Kathleen Rock
IASC President
Byron High School



The 84th State Convention



Save the Date:
May 3rd-5th, Convention,
Wyndham Hotel
Springfield, Illinois

Register by March 21st on illinoisstuco.org



Workshop Corner

Dynamics of Trust:

The 2016 Dynamics of Trust workshop took place on November 4th, 2017, in Carlinville. It was a fun, exciting day on the low ropes course where students learned several different skills and lessons to activate their leadership while simultaneously having fun!



Advanced Workshop:

The Advanced Workshop took place January 12th-14th at Lake Williamson Center in Carlinville. This weekend was full of excitement, learning, and development. From overcoming fears and jumping out of comfort zones at the high ropes course, to having thought-provoking and introspective conversations during discussion at the cabin, the weekend was rewarding for everyone. We hope to see many of you next year make an appearance at this great event!

Where are they Now?

Allison Hemmer

2013-2014 Second Vice President

What are you currently doing?

I am currently in my final semester of my undergraduate degree at The University of Mississippi, and applying for law school for next fall.

What are some of the skills and lessons that the IASC has taught you?

Being self-sufficient is the most important lesson and skill that I learned from being on the IASC Executive Board and by just being a part of the community. Also, I gained communication and organization skills that proved to be incredibly important skills post-high school.

How have the skills you've taken away from IASC helped you after you've left the organization?

Being able to be motivated and start and finish projects on my own is something that I would not have been able to finish college without. The advisors on the Executive Board the year I served (like Kari Ebens and Gary Clark) did me a great service by giving me the ability to have full creative license with my projects and trusting me to finish them on my own, while communicating my progress to them and the other members.

What is your favorite memory from the IASC?

It's hard to pick just one, but 2014 state convention, when I was able to see all of the hard work I put into, as well as the rest of our board put into, that convention. Also, it was just incredibly fun to hang out with the friends I had made from all across the state during my 4 years being involved with the IASC for the last time.

Do you have any advice for current students of the IASC?

Get involved. Whether that is on your local council, district board, or even running for a state position, that is the way you're going to get the most out of your time. The skills and memories you will gain during your time will prove to be some of the most important of your time in high school, and the friends you will meet will be a part of your lives for years to come.



Alina Acosta

2012-2013 Convention Secretary

What is your current occupation?

I graduated from Harvard in May of 2017. Now, I am part of the Harvard Teacher Fellows and teach high school math in Colorado!

What are some of the skills and lessons that the IASC has taught you?

IASC taught me a lot about working with people and being flexible. Being on the board required a ton of support from those around me and from my home student council. I have countless memories of asking my advisor for advice, working late into the night with the Registration Assistant for that year, Laura Hasley, and other members of my home council and the state board. You can't do everything yourself; it's a team effort. Being Convention Secretary also helped me to be more flexible. It can be frustrating when things don't go as planned, but when it's the day before the Convention and things aren't going as planned, panicking isn't going to help anyone.

How have the skills you've taken away from IASC helped you after you've left the organization?

I still continue to work constantly with people. I have to rely on my coworkers, and they rely on me, to make sure we are all providing the best education we can for our students. Teaching also requires frequent decision-making and flexibility. In addition to the points made above, I still think about some aspects of leadership we discussed at IASC workshops. I reflect often on what it means to be a strong leader, how different situations can warrant different leadership styles, etc.

What is your favorite memory from the IASC?

I have so many great memories from the IASC. I think my favorite IASC memory, though, was at the state convention my senior year. The board had the opportunity to stay in some really nice rooms high up in the Westin at the state convention and we all stayed up late just talking and hanging out on the balcony.

Do you have any advice for current students of the IASC?

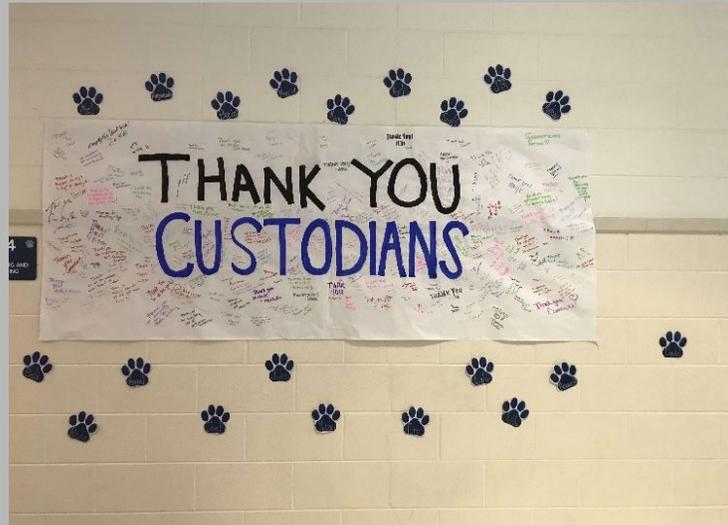
My advice for current students of the IASC would be to reflect constantly on the opportunities that the IASC has provided to you and appreciate and grow from those opportunities. We often take for granted how privileged we are to go to schools that value our personal development and provide us the chance to travel across the state/region to meet new people, make new friends, and learn from each other.



Local Feature

Riverside-Brookfield holds a special event each year for the custodians of the school in an effort to thank them for the hard work which they do throughout the year. Once a year, we make a banner that thanks custodians. Students sign the banners during lunch periods to show the

custodians that the entire school is thankful for their hard work. In addition to this thank you, we also write specific notes to each custodian thanking them for all the work they do throughout the year. During our 'Custodian Appreciation Day', students walk around during lunch with garbage cans to pick up garbage to help the custodians. We also hold a lunch with pizza and desert for the the day staff, and then have a dinner with the night time staff. Although our efforts may be small for the large amounts of work they do, we want to show our custodians that we notice all the hard work they do, and without them our school wouldn't run the same!

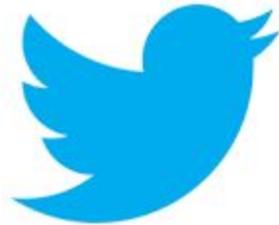


-Max Alvarez, Riverside-Brookfield High School

The IASC is Everywhere You Are!



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