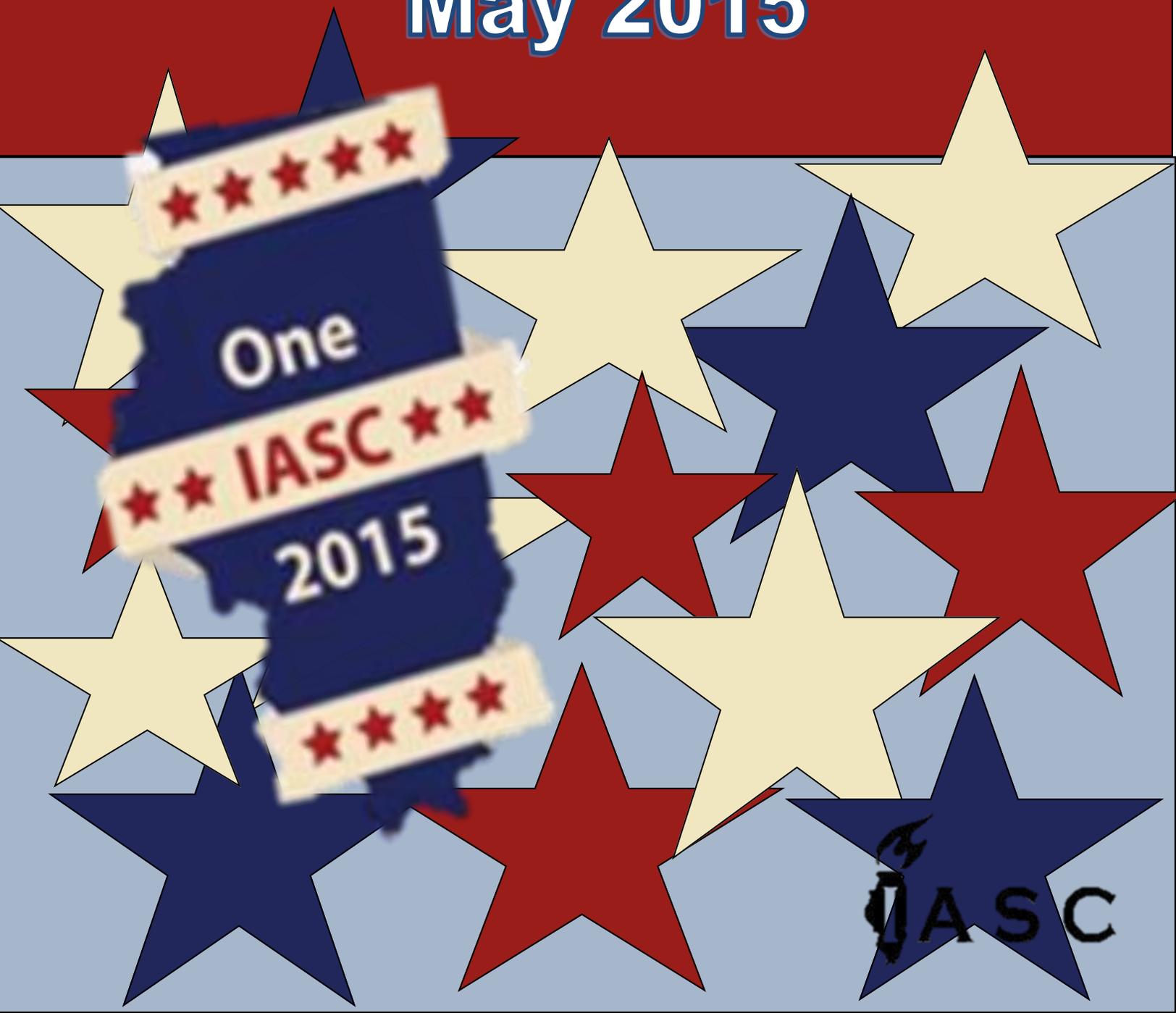


Illinois Association of Student Councils The Reporter May 2015





Message from the President3
Getting to Know The Keynote Speakers4-5
A Moment with the Board6-12
Workshop Information13
One IASC14-15
Congratulations Linda Pickett.....16-17
Hash tag it.....18

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

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Message from the President



Greetings, IASC:

As I have begun to enter into my final weeks of my term as President of the IASC, I have found myself reflecting on what I have learned over the past four, well nine, years on student council. One major piece of knowledge has been this: conferences, such as this one, are what you make of them. Here's my suggestion: think about why you're here and then make it happen! Do you want to get new ideas?

Try to make it to the Hall of Ideas. Interested in meeting new people and making new friends? Make it a goal to talk to someone new in every discussion group! A mix of both? Split up from the rest of your school! It doesn't help a school if 90% of an entire delegation are all in the same room; break from the pack, meet some new people, and get some new ideas.

Enjoy the state convention!

Respectfully,

Matt Bourke

President of the IASC

P.S. The first ten people to read this and say the words "banana accredited" to me will receive a candy bar!

Getting to Know the

Houston Kraft

Houston Kraft, a professional speaker and leadership trainer, joins us for the weekend to inspire us to challenge the way we think.

Mr. Kraft brings a revolutionary movement to us! The Movement: I am committed to my community. I am a person of action - willing to stand up for those around me to make my school a more kind, respectful & caring place. I will try to see the world through "Perspectives" and treat others with compassion. I know these things will not be easy, and I will often fail along the way, but I will not stop trying. I will CHOOSE LOVE. With this movement, Houston has inspired over thousands of people. Judging by the feedback on his Twitter page, it is unreal how many people were positively affected by his speaking. During his first two years of high school, being a professional speaker probably never crossed

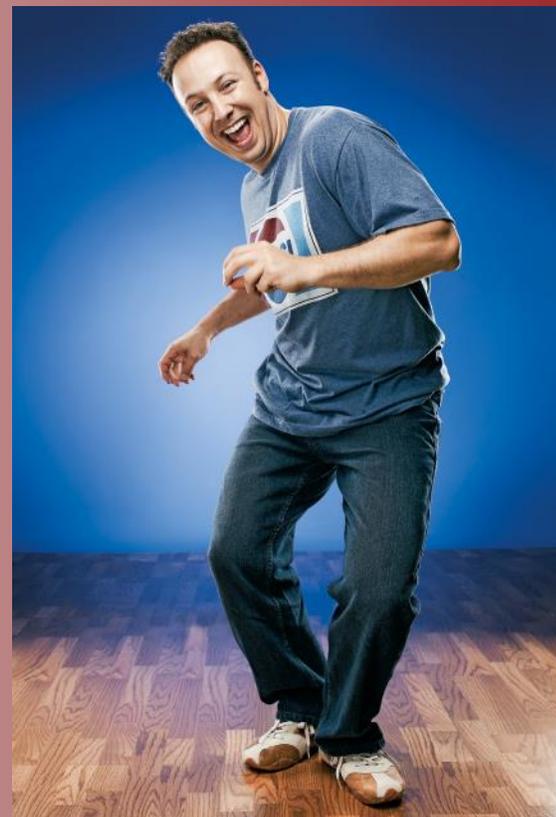


Houston's mind. Mr. Kraft did what he needed to do to coast by. One day a teacher asked Houston if he ever thought about joining student leader leadership. This little question changed Houston Craft's life in an extraordinary way! Houston Kraft started to become more involved by becoming Student Body President at Snohomish High School. Mr. Kraft also got involved when he went to college. At Bowdoin College, he became class president for two years. Not knowing where his career path would take him he moved out to California to pursue a career in acting. Out there Houston worked on a set with Lindsay Lohan and on other projects. Mr. Kraft realized that fame was not all that it has cracked up to be and decided to choose a different career path. Soon Houston realized how much he loved speaking since it was the perfect mixture of acting and being a student leader. Combining these two talents that Mr. Kraft possesses lead to the perfect job of being a professional speaker. We are very lucky to have Houston Kraft with us this weekend to share his message, but before he takes the stage I think it would be cool for everyone to get to know him first. Mr. Kraft's favorite thing to do when he is not speaking is spending time with his lovely wife Harley and their two kittens, PANDA and Khalessi. He currently is living in a home in Seattle. Houston has a cool free app called CharacterStrong, which consists of neat way to help build your character. When asked to pick an animal that describes himself he choose the money Abu from *Aladdin* because this little monkey is always there when you need him and he can be a little trouble maker sometimes. When listening to Houston Kraft, make sure to take away these two simple words of choose love. These two words can make a great impact and I am very pleased that we will get to hear Houston Kraft's inspirational message this weekend!

Keynote Speakers!

Judson Laipply

Judson Laipply, a fellow student council member, joins us for the weekend to share his inspirational message and teach us a few dance moves. Mr. Laipply's is very well-known for creating the evolution of dance. The concept of "The Evolution of Dance" came to Judson while he was have a conversation with a friend about change and the different types of dance songs played at weddings, and he decided it would be cool to see them all at one time. After their conversation, Mr. Laipply immediately went up to his hotel room he was staying at and wrote down the first twelve songs that popped into his head. He later learned how to cut and mix the tracks on his computer to create the first sound track of the evolution of dance. Judson



performed his first take of "The Evolution of Dance" with the twelve songs he thought of and the audience loved it and was enjoying themselves the whole time. Later the video of "The Evolution of Dance" went viral on YouTube and Judson Laipply became known for the creation of "The Evolution of Dance!" The creation of "The Evolution of Dance" helps Judson Laipply stand out as a motivational speaker. Judson shares with us why he decided to become a motivational speaker based on a combination of things. One thing was his personal involvement with student council when he was in high school. Student council gave him a base for leadership development as well as exposure to making friends with new people. During his time in student council he took every opportunity he had to give presentations to people and he even ran for state board. Laipply loved to present to people because it gave him that high and that feeling of doing something he truly loved. In college, Judson did not stay far from presenting; he continued to give presentations when he could. The other part of how Mr. Laipply became a motivational speaker was because he was still in graduate school figuring things out and he was young! Judson knew that you are better off trying things in your life then not at all. Judson Laipply joins us this week to share an inspirational message but before he does, I feel it would be great to get to know him. Mr. Laipply is from the hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. When he is not speaking, he likes to take part in triathlons or golf. He also enjoys spending time with his wife. They have been married since last June. When asked to pick an animal to describe himself, he choose a chameleon because he likes to explore and can adapt to new situations. An important message to remember from listing to Judson Laipply speak is life is not always what we hoped for so while we are here we might as while dance. It's a great honor to have the creator of Evolution of Dance at our 2015 State Convention.

A Moment With Matt Bourke, President

It has been over a month of avoidance but it is finally time to write my goodbye to the IASC, not because of my rampant procrastination—well, not fully—but because I’m really not very good at them. So here we go:

It’s amazing to think that I began my high school student council career by losing the freshmen class president election (shout-out to Jenny Murphy) and I now leave it by passing on the torch of President of the IASC. While it may have been the most stressful job I have ever undertaken, I could not be more thrilled to have spent my senior year traveling the state, experiencing everything that student council has to offer. Granted, it did get to a point where administrators began checking records to see if I was actually enrolled in school, but it was all worth it.



The memories I have been able to make with my Executive Board members over the course of the year have been my fondest, from power-walking through Universal Studios with Beretta, to running over that one road bump with Addy and Kelsie, or listening to poetry about two girls’ weaves with Trey, to making everyone’s eyes glaze over during the tour of York, I will always treasure this very special year in my life.

Thank you to my family for always hiding their confusion with understanding and just going with everything I threw at them

this year, from being in a different part of the state every weekend for two months to everything in between.

A special thank you to my roommates, Mrs. Ebens and Mrs. Pickett; the matchmaker, Mr. Gordon; the true controller of Illinois, Mr. Clark; the best hosts in the state; Mr. VanZandt and Mrs. Watts, and all of the IASC advisors.

Thank you to both Collinsville High School and Mt. Vernon Township High School for hosting me over the course of the year; with your schools I had some of the best custard to-date, experienced the soda “Ski” for the first time, and found why Illinois truly is the best state in the country.

Of course, I need to thank the York Student Council for all of their hard work and dedication to the IASC. Whether it was stuffing almost 800 letters in thirty minutes or helping to promote the state service project, I could not be more appreciative. You all started my term by cheering the loudest you could, and I hope this simple thank you is enough to show the gratitude I feel towards each and every one of you. Go Dukes.

And finally, thank you, Ms. Fleming and Mr. Moran for letting me do this. You both serve as role models to me day-in and day-out and I really don’t know what I’ll do without you two next year. Ms. Fleming: we have spent over twenty hours on the road together; stopped at, if I’m guessing, every Starbucks in the state; and gone through more York history than I believe exists. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

As for next year, I will be taking my talents to South Beach Columbia, Missouri, where I will be studying broadcast journalism and secondary English education at Mizzou.

the Board!

Beretta Phelps, First Vice President



Dear IASC,

I have had a blast serving as your 2014-2015 IASC 1st VP! This amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has truly impacted me as a person! Since the 1st VP is responsible for managing the Honor Delegate portion of the state convention, I would like to thank all of the Honor Delegates this year. Without you, this convention would be impossible.

Being on the state board takes a lot of work and I mean A LOT, including sending out hundreds of letters, reviewing close to ninety applications from throughout the state, and simply making sure everyone's name is spelled correctly. In the long run, though, it was all worth it!

My favorite part about being a state officer has to be all the doors that were opened for me! I got to go to the NASC convention in Orlando, Florida, and serve as a JC at the IASC Summer camp, as well as attend three district workshops to speak on behalf of the IASC. Each opportunity was unique in its own way and I am thankful for all of the skills I've learned and friends I have made along the way.

My journey would not have been possible without a few special people in my life including my home council, Sullivan High School, and the Sullivan High School Administration! You always supported me and helped me through some of the most stressful times of my life and that means the world to me!

Thank you to the Eastern District and all the amazing advisors and students in it. I would like to remind you to never forget the starting points of your success.

I send a special thank you to my fellow board members. You have made this year interesting and fun. I am truly glad to say you will never ever be forgotten!

Thank you so much to Mrs.Ebens. Without her, I would not have been able to do the things I do or meet some of the people who are now friends that will last a lifetime, I am so glad all of you came into my life!

I would also like to thank my local Advisor, Ashton Harwood, for always supporting me and for truly making me a better person. Those long car rides all over the state were pretty great, too! And lastly, I would like to thank the IASC for putting your trust in me and electing me as your 2014-2015 IASC 1st Vice President. I have had a year I will never forget!

Good luck to next year's 1st VP, I will truly miss being a part of this amazing organization.

And, so, I will close with a quote from my favorite author, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."(Dr. Seuss) Thank you IASC! It has been a great year!

- 2014-2015 IASC First Vice President

Beretta Phelps

Alec Helm, Second Vice President



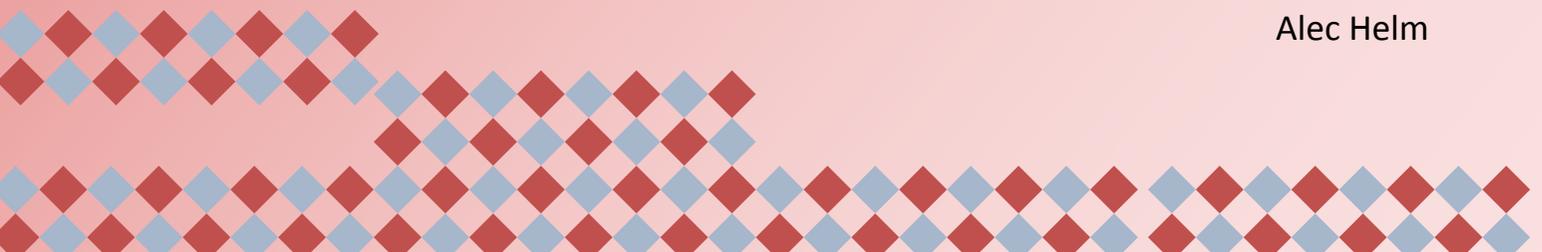
Hey everyone!

My time on board has been like nothing I have ever experienced before. Being a part of something that is so special and getting to share it all with such amazing people has made this position all the more enjoyable. From all of our fun meetings to our crazy group chats, the rest of the board has made me feel like I am part of a family. To any of you running for a position, my advice would be to make sure that you have enough time to give it your everything. This job is not something that you can just

overlook. It is hard work! If you really love Student Council, however, you will have no problem! I can't wait to see all of you guys at the convention!

See you later!

Alec Helm





Kelsey Jeffries, Treasurer



I fell in love with leadership at my very first state convention.

As I watched that state board four years ago, I committed

myself to growing into the best leader I could become. I

wanted to make an impact on student leaders at my school,

in the community, and throughout Illinois. Being the IASC

state treasurer has enabled me to realize these goals this

year. I have been blessed with a wonderful board that gra-

ciously joined me on my journey through leadership. Each

and every one of its members has made my IASC experience

profound in separate and unique ways. Whether we were discussing the intensive details of keynote speakers and

the impact of service projects or chatting over milkshakes and laughing at cheesy jokes, my fellow board members

have taught me the value of cooperation and leadership. Excuse my cliché, but teamwork really does make the

dream work. Ideas never died in our collaboration, but they grew and improved as we worked together for the

betterment of student leadership in Illinois. Serving the student leaders of Illinois has allowed me to influence lead-

ers on a deeper level, and it has certainly been a pleasure and a privilege. As a freshman all those years ago, I was

empowered to take action, and I hope that more young students will embrace leadership and its challenges because

“True leaders don’t create followers; they create more leaders.” I have enjoyed every moment of being a part of

the 2014-2015 IASC state board. Thank you IASC for helping me grow on my leadership journey!



Addy Shaw, Secretary



My time on the IASC board has been one I will never forget. From all of the friendships I've made to all of the lasting lessons I've learned, I wouldn't trade any of it for the world. It has not only changed me as a leader but even more as a person. Waking up early Saturday mornings to drive for hours to a meeting, laughing at absolutely everything, and even Trey's typos, have made it all worth it. Spending my senior year with all of the other board members created an unforgettable experience.

Trey Riley, Convention Secretary



Being Mount Vernon's first IASC Board member came with quite a bit of challenges. All in all, we have overcome the stress, not knowing, and rush that the end of the school year brings. I am extremely impressed with the hard work that each IASC Board member, and Mount Vernon's Student Council, has put in. Without the support of my peers on the IASC Board, my fellow Student Council members, and advisors, Mrs. Watts,

and Mr. VanZandt, this years' State Convention would have fallen through. I look forward to seeing where everyone can go as a leader, and I hope you continue to better yourself, your Student Council, and your school. I also hope you enjoy the efforts made by your fellow Student Council members from across the state to put on the 81st annual IASC State Convention in Lombard, IL at the Westin!

Skylar Flynn, Assistant Communications Director



My time on the executive board has been an incredible experience, and I am sad to see it come to an end. During my time on the board I have made many great memories and met many amazing people, and I am so happy I got to share this great experience with my fellow board members. Together we made the perfect team, always working hard to get things done and having fun along the way. I will miss our board meetings where we worked on important tasks, occasionally got distracted by hilarious typos and decided what color the shirts actually will be. My fellow board members have made senior year ten times better! I would not have been able to attend all these board member without my amazing advisor. My advisor Mrs. Kilgore has been there for me since freshman year since I joined student council. Without her I would have never been able to explore the world of leadership to the length I have and make it

I will miss not having her as my advisor next year when I am off at college. Mrs. Kilgore has been a great part of my support system along with my high school student council peers and my family. My student council peers are a great group of aspiring leaders and I have truly enjoyed having the pleasure of working with them. Throughout all of my time being a part of student council and all of my extra-curricular activities, my parents have been there for me. While on the board my mom has helped proof-read *The Reporters* to help prevent me from submitting a final copy with numerous spelling errors. *The Reporter* has given me a chance to work with many students from different districts who have submitted articles of their experiences from different camps. There have been many enjoyable parts about being on the board but one of my favorite was being introduced to the Advanced Workshop. At the Advanced Workshop, I met a group of extraordinary students that I am very happy to have in my life. This group of people is a big reason why student council means so much to me. I have truly enjoyed my time serving on the executive board and I wish the best of luck to the board that takes over. Thank you to everyone that has made my time on the board so great. I will sincerely miss you all.



Workshop Information

IASC Summer Camp 2015 with

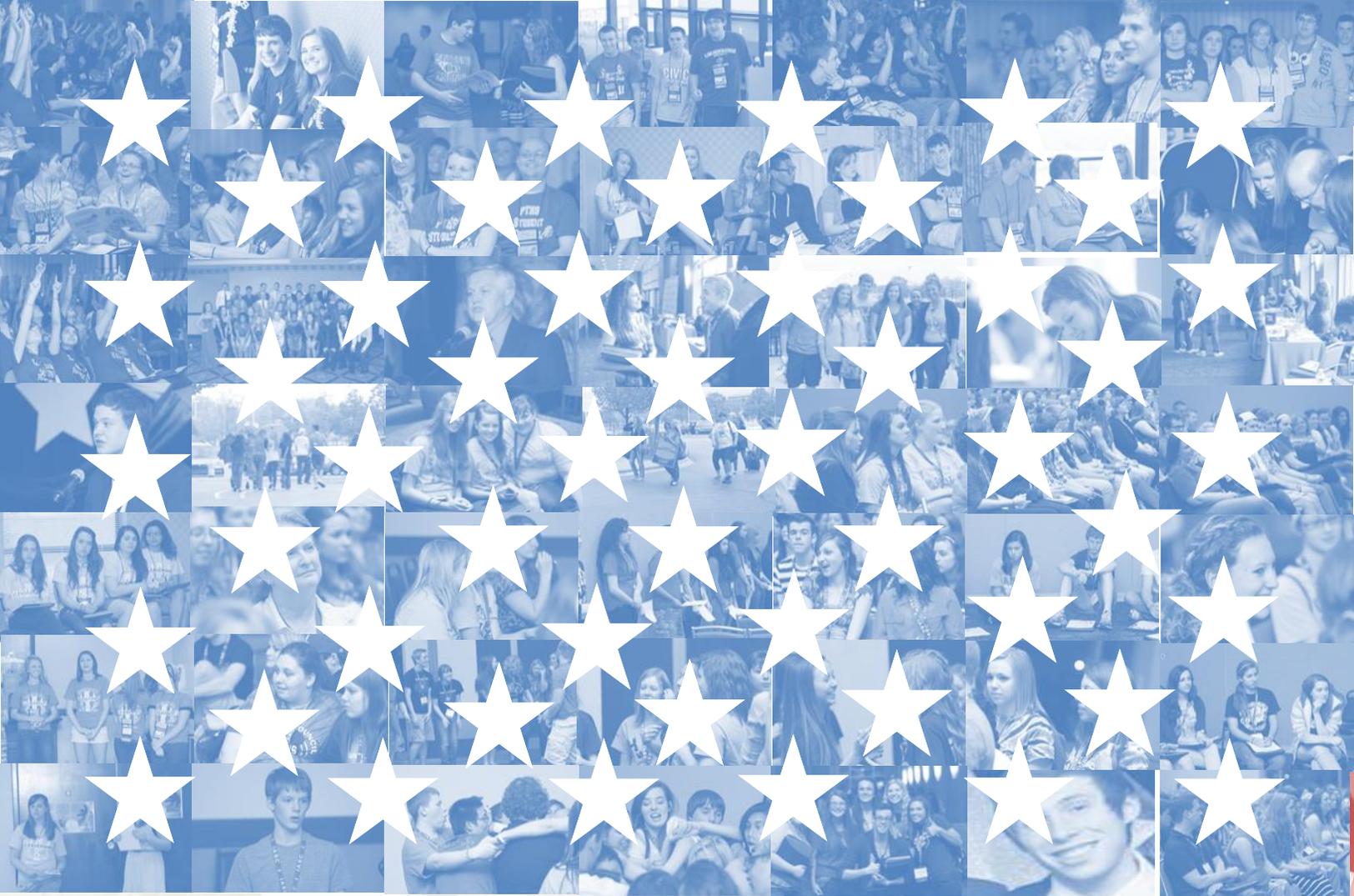
A'ric Jackson

July 20 – 23, 2015 at Millikin University



Fall Drive-In Workshop Applications

If your school is interested in applying to host a workshop for IASC the application will be on the website and is due at the *state convention*



ONE



IASC



Congratulations Linda Pickett!



A special congratulation is sent out to Linda Pickett for being a regional winner for the national Shull Award and being one of the eight finalists for the National Student Council Advisor of the Year! For this award, the U.S. is divided into a total of eight regions. Each state nominates one advisor and it is the advisor's responsibility to complete the application. Mrs. Pickett was chosen to represent Illinois and was later chosen from Region Five which covers Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia to be one of the eight finalists for the National Student Council Advisor of the Year! Before winning this nomination for the National Student Council Advisor of the Year, Mrs. Pickett was nominated at the state Board meeting and August and her reaction was very humbling. Mrs. Pickett says, "When I was nominated by the Executive Board, I was surprised. Mr. Gordon was nominated and received the National Award a couple of years ago, and I did not really think I was truly qualified to be nominated until I read the application. I was very honored to represent the IASC as their Shull Award candidate!" Mrs. Pickett has received numerous awards in the past for demonstrating

outstanding leadership skills and she is very aware of the part her student council plays in it. Mrs. Pickett shares, "Student Council has everything to do with me winning this nomination! I have worked closely with my council to develop programs that will benefit our school, our community and our members. We have been selected as a National Gold Council of Excellence for the past 5 years which reinforces that our council does a great job! I have to commend my students at Columbia High School who have been a big part of making our council events and projects successful! We have an excellent group of students who have been willing to go above and beyond any expectations that I may have of them. I feel very fortunate to have been able to with the many students that have contributed to our council! It has made being their advisor extremely pleasurable! I am so very proud of what our students and council have accomplished! They have truly made Columbia High School a better place!" On the opposite page you can see a collage of pictures of Mrs. Pickett with her student council. We would like to wish her luck as she represents region five for the National Student Council Advisor of the Year, competing against other finalist from New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, and Texas. Mrs. Pickett, you have truly done many wonderful things for your student council and I would love to see you take home this award!



Photos of Linda Pickett and her student council!

What's your Hashtag?

#IASCstateconvention2015

#IllinoisAssociationof
StudentCouncil

#leadership

#Stuco

#mightaswelldance

#IASC2015

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#spreadthelove

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