

Congratulations to Heather Bennett, executive assistant to the president and the Board of Trustees, for winning the 2017 Professional Board Staff Member Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association!

The Professional Board Staff Member Award recognizes exemplary professional service to an Illinois community college board.

Bennett has worked at Black Hawk College since May 2014. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from Western Illinois University.

She was nominated by the BHC Board of Trustees. The following are excerpts from the board's nomination letter:

- "Heather Bennett organizes the information we need so that it is readily accessible to us well before we will need to act on that information. She holds public speakers to the time limit established in our policy; she takes literate and informative notes that form the bases of our official minutes; she makes sure there's a full candy bowl for every meeting even while scrupulously collecting the classy Pilot precision-grip pens laid out at each of our places for our use during the meetings. While she has a generous heart, she is certainly frugal on the College's behalf!"
- "In early May, following completion of the National Association of Parliamentarians online curriculum, Mrs. Bennett will become a registered Parliamentarian. This is a step she is taking on her own time and her own dime after the Board endured several awkward incidents of procedural confusion."
- "Heather Bennett has a natural gift for organization. She has instituted the practice of projecting all board documents on a screen so that all in attendance can see exactly what the reports are."
- "Many of our meetings are held in the eastern part of our large district - nearly an hour away from the Quad Cities. Because it is difficult for some of the area's citizens to get to meetings, she has worked with the College's technicians to make sure these meetings are videotape."

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