

March 11, 2006

Editor
News-Gazette
P.O. Box 677
Champaign, IL 61824

Dear Editor

Parkland College strives to help students meet their educational goals. The entire campus works together to provide comprehensive services to our students. One example of these services is the Academic Development Center. This center is designed to help students build their reading, writing or math skills in preparation for college-level coursework. The Academic Development Center combines instructional support with practical guidance to help our students adjust to the expectations of higher education.

This program has been so successful; it has recently won two national awards. The National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA) has selected Parkland as a winner in their 17th Exemplary Initiatives Awards Competition in the area of student retention and success. The second award is from the MetLife Foundation Initiative on Student Success. This organization recognizes and rewards community colleges that demonstrate exemplary performance in retaining students. Parkland was one of four community colleges nationwide selected for this honor and will receive an award of \$10,000.

This recognition illustrates Parkland's unending commitment to student retention, the community, and excellence in teaching and learning. For more information about Parkland's programs and services, visit our website at <http://www.Parkland.edu> or call 351-2200.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Bennett
Parkland College Trustee

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