Students Speak Survey to Change IIT

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IIT CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND SERVICE

At the request of the President and Provost, IIT students once again launched the Students Speak survey to solicit input for improving the quality of services provided to IIT students. This initiative is focused on soliciting feedback from students about how to improve various service areas. This program is in line with President John L. Anderson's and Provost Alan Cramb's commitment to advancing student satisfaction and the quality of various services (e.g., Public Safety, Office of Technology Services (OTS), Academic Resource Center (ARC)) IIT provides to students.

"Students Speak" reflects a philosophy that the student is the customer, who needs to have his/her needs, concerns and ideas, understood in a better way. It is rooted in a belief that IIT can do better by its students. The added perspective of "if it isn't working, it can and will be changed" makes this plan very ambitious.

"Students Speak" is a student committee that includes representatives from Student Government Association (SGA), International Student Organization (ISO), the Greek Community, Camras Scholars, Leadership Academy, Varsity Teams, and several other graduate student organizations has developed "Students Speak". The student committee has developed objectives, a project plan, and a time frame for the "Students Speak" effort. The goals of "Students Speak" are to help the administration establish benchmarks of performance for services to students, identify priorities for improvement, create action plans for change, chart progress, and instill accountability for improvements.

The Students Speak committee will present the results from Students Speak to the President and Provost in January; departments and service areas will receive feedback shortly after. Student committee members will also submit specific recommendations for how to make the necessary changes needed to ensure student satisfaction with administrative services. The ideas they will present will be drawn from survey findings and additional input
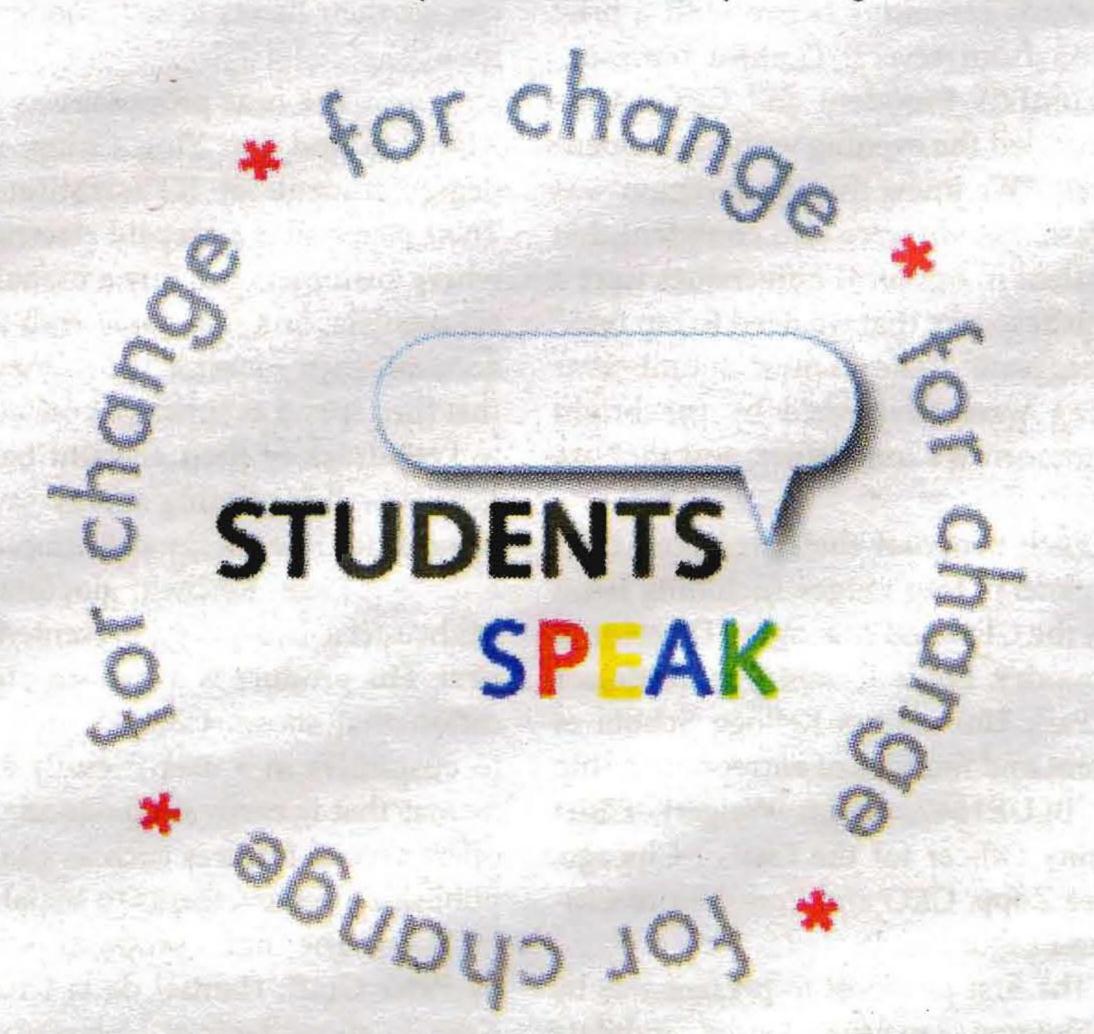

Image courtesy of iit.edu

from members of their student organizations.

The challenge of this project is to obtain a high level of student feedback via the survey for which the response from the student has traditionally been poor. One of the ways this is being combated is by offering incentives to survey respondents; there will be a lottery for those who respond to the survey with the chance to win money and prizes. Of course, the most important incentives are having students' voice on multiple issues documented and to contribute toward making a positive difference in the future of IIT. This is a chance to truly let senior administration listen to student concerns and chart a new course for the future of the university; one that is student and customer focused.

President Anderson has asked that George Langlois, the Director for the Center of Research and Service (College of Psychology) and the Leadership Academy, support students in this process. Dr. Langlois is an Industrial/Organizational psychologist who conducts the annual faculty survey and works with numerous clients outside of IIT. He has many years of experience in survey design and analysis, and his role in this project is to work with the students by providing his expertise and experience. Dr. Langlois is an alumnus of IIT, where he received his PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. He wants to help the university make a change in the student experience at IIT.

Be on the lookout for more information about "Students' Speak". The process goes live on October 27 and continues through November 10. All students will be sent an email with a link to the survey, but if you miss the email, you can simply go to http://www.iit.edu/students_speak in order to complete the survey once it goes live. Take the survey and be heard. Together, we can make change happen.

Illinois Tech ROTC hosts Halloween Fun Run

Trevor Wasserzieher
TECHNEWS WRITER

Have a cool or spooky Halloween costume you've been dying to show off this Halloween season? Do you enjoy running for distances of up to five kilometers? If either of these questions applies to you, then the perfect opportunity awaits. Illinois Tech Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is sponsoring a Halloween 5K Fun Run event this Wednesday, October 29, at 31st Street Beach. The purpose of this free event is to encourage the student body to learn more about the Army ROTC program here at IIT, but mostly to celebrate the Halloween season with some good old-fashioned exercise while wearing a fun costume.

The race begins at 6:30 a.m., so be sure to arrive between 6:00 a.m. to 6:15 a.m. to check in. Runners can expect to run along the Lakefront Path, starting at 31st Street Beach and continuing north to the turnaround point at East Waldron Drive, then back to 31st Street Beach to finish. The course is almost entirely flat and the main consideration runners need to be mindful of is bikers riding along the trail. After running the race, runners will have the opportunity to meet and socialize with ROTC Cadets from the Chicago area. Donuts and hot chocolate will be served following the race, and some free items will be given away to race participants. If you have an 8:35 a.m. class, you should have plenty of time after the race to make it back to campus to change and prepare for your class.

The race is free and open to everyone, whether you are a practiced marathoner or even a running enthusiast. Halloween costumes are highly encouraged but not mandatory. There will be a costume contest, so be sure to dress your best if you want the chance to win. We are anticipating the involvement of members from the Navy and Air Force ROTC programs here at IIT, as well as members from the Greek community, so this event truly is embodying the involvement of as many diverse members of the student body as possible.

Look for further information on Illinois Tech ROTC's Facebook page. If you want to register and sign up for the race, are interested in volunteering for this event, or have any questions or concerns, please email Cadet Brown at abrown31@hawk.iit.edu.

Photos by Katy Banks

Commuter Student Association presents Call to Action Contest

Maria Garcia
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Commuter Student Association is hosting a contest for IIT students. The purpose of the contest is to encourage students to become more involved on IIT campuses by attending events, workshops, or meetings. There is no maximum number of events that a student can attend, but the more you attend, the higher probability of you winning the contest. This contest is open only to IIT students. Participation is not restricted to full-time IIT students; IIT part-time students are more than welcome to participate. The participant must be a CSA member, but if a student is not yet registered, they can register through http://mypages.iit.edu/~commuter/.

The more events attended, the higher probability of a student winning the contest. There will be three prizes. First place winner, with the highest number of IIT events attended, will win $75 in TechCash, second place will win $50 and third place will win $25. Fairness is important in this contest, therefore, if you are already part of a student organization (e.g. executive officer for Union Board, or other student organization) you may only submit 3 events of your student organization. The method for recording the events that a student attends are for the student to post a picture on CSA Facebook page, tag CSA and themselves on the picture. It is important the picture captures the participant at the event to proof the presence of the student. If student does not have access to a camera or any picture taking device, they can share a description of the event on the CSA Facebook page and tag that student organization that hosted the event on the description. If participant does not have a Facebook page, they may make a submission with the photo link to: http://tinyurl.com/mdmzwzt