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Students Speak survey expands into new departments

By Mike Purdy

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

With the midpoint of the fall 2011 semester upon us, it is once again time to evaluate student satisfaction and university departmental effectiveness through the implementation of the annual Students Speak survey. Administration of this survey began on October 21 and will continue until Friday, November 4. All students, both undergraduate and graduate, are encouraged to participate in the Students Speak, as it is perhaps the most respected and consistent conduit for change and improvement on campus.

Students can take the survey at any point over the next two weeks - it is easy to navigate and takes anywhere from 5-15 minutes to complete depending on how many departments one decides to evaluate. A link to the survey is available through the "student life" tab on the myIIT portal, and laptop kiosks will be on hand each day on the MTCC Bridge to provide ease of access for those passing through.

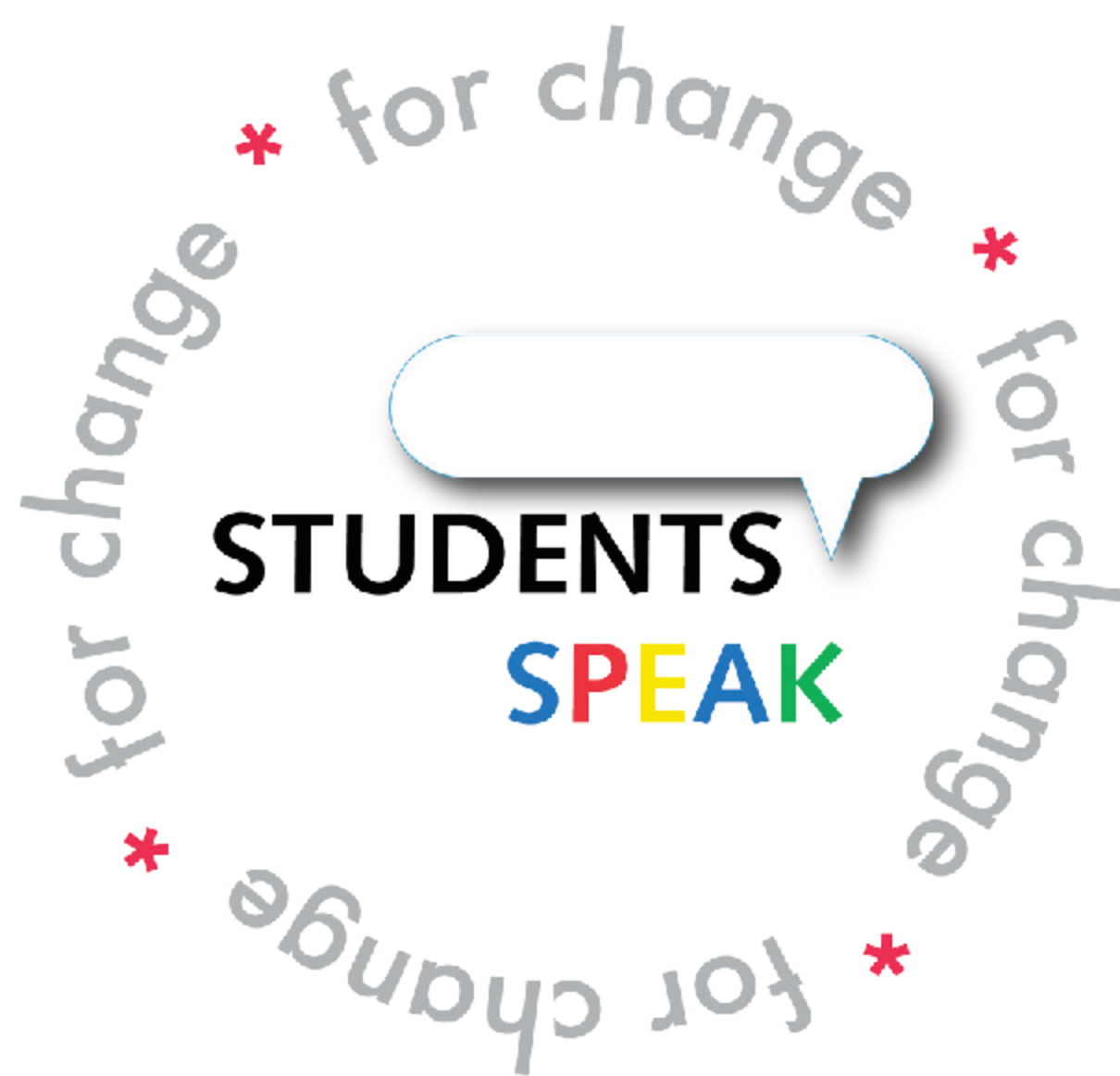
The Students Speak survey has proven itself to be a powerful tool in the assessment and modification of many aspects of IIT over the past few years, and this year should be no different. Along with the general evaluation of main campus departments, such as Financial Aid, Bursar, Registrar, and Housing & Residential Services, the survey also addresses Public Safety, Student Health Services, and the

Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Each departmental evaluation includes traditionally-formatted survey questions, as well as an area for students to provide specific feedback and concerns. New to the survey this year is a large section concerning student life, as well as a specific portion for the evaluation of Student Government. These two dimensions of the survey hope to gauge the student outlook on such topics as on-campus events, the Student Activities Fund, Student Government functions, and even neighborhood improvements.

Bruce Fisher, director for the Center of Research and Service, and IIT's Leadership Academy, is once again heading the Students Speak project, and has been working alongside other campus leaders since mid-September to ensure a quality survey. Following a successful year in 2010, the Students Speak committee is hoping for an even better student participation rate this time around.

As an incentive, those students who complete the survey will be automatically entered into a drawing for numerous gift cards including Global Grounds, the campus bookstore, bowling parties at The BOG, and AMC movie tickets. Data analysis of the survey results will take place from November 5-11, followed by a publication in TechNews and a presentation to the President and Provost in late November. A detailed report of the survey and its effectiveness will be presented at the Students Speak Summit in January.



Students Speak Survey Voice your Opinion

iit.edu/students_speak

Complete the survey and you can win movie tickets,
bowling parties and gift cards

Prizes sponsored by
IIT Dining Services, IIT Bookstore & the BOG

Great Lakes symposium on new energy economy

By Swasti Khuntia

TECHNEWS WRITER

On October 18 and 19, leaders from around the globe gathered at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Herman Hall to discuss best practices, new technologies, and the ideas that are making the smart grid a reality. The interactive agenda showcased smart grid best practices from around the country along with innovative technologies and ideas that are spurring innovation, growing state economies, reducing emissions and empowering consumers to conserve and save.

Participants had the opportunity to engage leaders on key policy questions, identify investment and job creation opportunities, and learn about projects already underway. Participants also had the opportunity to tour S&C Electric's Chicago campus and visit their new Smart Grid Solutions Demonstration Center for a live demonstration of technologies that can be used to improve power reliability and performance. The highlights of the symposium included:

- Path to Perfect Power track, showcasing microgrid and other consumer-centric approaches that are improving reliability and environmental performance. Speakers included Eric Dresselhuys, Chief Marketing Officer, Silver Spring Networks; John Kelly, Executive Director, Galvin Electricity Initiative; and Mark Hura, Commercial Leader for Smart Grid, GE Digital Energy

- Midwest Policy Summit, addressing key environmental and economic opportunities available through smart grid; speakers included Doug Scott, Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission; David Kolata, Executive Director, Citizens Utility Board; Matthew Summy, President, Illinois Science and Technology Coalition; and Miriam Horn, Director, Smart Grid Initiative, Environmental Defense Fund
- Innovation Marketplace, a smart grid start-up investor "elevator pitch" event
- Midwest Smart Grid Innovation Awards
- Lunch Plenary Session with executive panel featuring Jim Buckman, Owner, James E. Buckman & Associates; Michael Niggli, President and CEO, San Diego Gas & Electric; Anne Pramaggiore, President and COO, ComEd; and Teri Ivaniszyn, Senior Director of Corporate Excellence, Florida Power & Light
- A chance to contribute to the Smart Grid Regional Roadmap currently being developed by the Illinois Smart Grid Regional Innovation Cluster

Starting the forum off, Dr. Mohammad Shahidehpour, Director of the Robert W. Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation at IIT, paid tribute to the late Robert W. Galvin, chairman and CEO of Motorola and a major benefactor to IIT. Shahidehpour then

flagged off the ceremony by welcoming all the attendees to one-of-a-kind event that broke new ground in smart grid design and development. The welcome speech was delivered by Hon. Rahm Emanuel, mayor of Chicago.

Emanuel said Chicago and the nation should focus more on an energy source that he called low-hanging fruit: conservation. He committed Chicago to doubling its already record number of energy-efficient public buildings. Emanuel said the city promotes technologies such as energy-efficient homes and water meters, and more efficient mass transit.

"I want everybody in your field to see Chicago as a center for new companies, new technology, collaboration between the public and private sector," said Emanuel. "So we continue to lead the effort in new companies that are looking at energy conservation—not just alternative energy—but energy conservation as the next fifth energy source."

The non-conservation energy sources being nuclear, coal, gas, and alternatives, such as wind and solar. The welcome speech was followed by a splendid keynote on "Smart Grid and the New Energy Economy" by Ellen Alberding, President, Joyce Foundation; Scott Lang, President and CEO, Silver Spring Networks; and Luke Clemente, General Manager of Metering and Sensing Systems, GE Energy's Digital energy Services. Elaborating the concept of smart grid to the gathering, they discussed the usefulness of this important discovery. It concluded with a coffee break.

The morning session continued at the expo center as well as in the auditorium.

The expo center witnessed "Midwest Policy Summit," the topic being "How can Smart grid technologies increase the efficiency between transmission and distribution?" The committee then turned over to the attendees and their questions. At the same time, the auditorium witnessed the Consumer track: Path to Perfect Power, the topic being "Leading Practices for Ensuring Consumer Empowerment." The lunch session, "The Pursuit of Quality and Innovation," was held in the Herman Hall ballroom. The afternoon session had three informative discussion sessions.

The second day started with an inspiring delivery by Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club. The morning session included Midwest Policy Summit: Developing good smart grid policy and Developing great midwest Smart Grid Strategies; a Consumer track: Path to Perfect Power, Leading practices for Interpreting clean and efficient power; and Innovation and Economic Opportunity track: Growing the Smart grid regional innovation cluster workshop. It followed by the "Midwest energy leadership Awards" and a tour of the Perfect Power Microgrid at IIT.

Followed by the symposium, Underwriters Laboratories, the Galvin Electricity Initiative and S&C Electric Company organized the first-ever Perfect Power Seal of Approval Academy (PPSoA). The Academy was an interactive opportunity for grid professionals from across the country to learn performance measures and design criteria that would help

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