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BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508  
County of Cook and State of Illinois

TEACHER'S ACHIEVEMENT  
TRUMAN COLLEGE

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS that Mary Beth Guinan, who teaches English as a Second Language in Harry S Truman College's Adult Learning Skills Program, has created a new icon-based system for teaching English; and

that the Icon Language Teaching System, or "Instant English," can be used in written text, but is primarily designed for Windows applications; and

that students using Instant English see the icons, hear the correct pronunciation of words, and see and hear words used correctly in a sentence; and

that City Colleges of Chicago supported development of the system, which grew out of Guinan's efforts to teach English and Laotian students, many of whom had no schooling in their own languages; and

that Guinan experimented, teaching students sentences with a series of icons inspired by those in use in airports and other public places frequented by people from different countries; and

that the flexibility of Instant English allows teachers to make lessons more meaningful by designing lessons tailored specifically to the lives of their students and that by the end of her first year teaching with Instant English, Guinan's icon-taught students had perfect command of pronoun cases.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Watson  
Chancellor

May 6, 1999

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