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## Breaking News

# Enrollment up at UIS, LLCC, Benedictine

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**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

Posted Sep 10, 2009 @ 09:57 AM

Last update Sep 11, 2009 @ 06:59 AM

More students than ever before are attending the University of Illinois Springfield this fall, and other Springfield colleges also report increased enrollment.

Enrollment figures released this week for UIS show a record 4,961 students enrolled for the fall semester, a 5 percent increase over last fall's 4,711 students.

Chancellor Richard Ringeisen said the higher figures "demonstrate the value attached to the high-quality education UIS delivers for students from all over Illinois."

"These numbers are attained by programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, in many academic areas," he said. "And this in spite of some very tough economic conditions. We are most gratified."

Fall enrollment is 7,876 at Lincoln Land Community College, a 17.9 percent increase over last fall's 6,683 students.

LLCC also is reporting a 16.1 percent increase in the number of credit hours students are taking over a year ago. The school receives reimbursement from the state based on number of credit hours taken.

"I think the economy is a big factor," said Lynn Whalen, director of public relations and marketing at LLCC. "It is not unexpected. Community colleges across the state are experiencing the same thing."

At Benedictine University at Springfield, fall enrollment is up 2 percent across all programs, including graduate students. The 926 students include a freshman class of 133, which represents a 25 percent increase over fall 2008 numbers.

"We've also had an increase in first-time adult students," said Susie Doddek, director of college advancement at the school formerly known as Springfield College in Illinois.

"Those are pretty strong freshman numbers for us," Doddek said. "We think it's because we've added new bachelor's degree programs."

UIS has been recognized nationally for its online programs, which also are experiencing overall growth, according to Ray Schroeder, director of the Center for Online Learning, Research and Service.

"While the growth of the online program at UIS has spanned more than a decade, recent increases seem to be fueled by the economic downturn," Schroeder said.

He said the flexibility and accessibility of the classes makes online classwork an attractive option for students who want to advance their education while continuing to work.

Many other area colleges and universities haven't announced fall enrollment figures yet because they have not reached the 10th day of classes, when those numbers are finalized.

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## UIS numbers

- 4,961 total students, up from 4,711 in 2008
- 3,027 undergraduates this fall, compared to 2,889 last year
- 1,934 graduate students, an increase of 112 over fall 2008
- 1,089 students living on campus in the UIS apartments, townhouses, and Lincoln and Founders residence halls, compared to 1,030 last fall
- 1,301 students majoring in online degree or certificate programs, an increase of 8.4 percent from last fall's 1,200
- 4,300 students enrolled in at least one online class, compared to 3,875 last year. Online enrollments, also called seat counts, are the total number of seats that are filled in online classes
- 10 percent increase in faculty members teaching online classes -- 154 this fall, compared to 140 in fall 2008

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