A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR MORTENSON

It is my honor to present the 2018 Annual Report of the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It is always my privilege to write this message as it is my opportunity to reflect on the many successes that we encountered in the past fiscal year.

In FY2018, the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) delivered quality training and education to students from across the state, country, and world. Every IFSI program and course is at the forefront of national training standards. As a result of this effort, and our accreditation with the two nationally and internationally recognized fire service accreditation agencies, IFSI signed an intergovernmental agreement with the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in November 2017 that recognizes IFSI end of course examinations as equivalent to OSFM state certification exams. This agreement is a great benefit to the men and women of the fire service and is a testament to the positive working relationship we have with OSFM and our shared commitment to the quality of training and education available in Illinois to first responders.

As I reflect on our successes, I must also highlight the positive increases in our program delivery. In the past fiscal year, IFSI trained 1,500 more students, enrolled over 1,300 more firefighters in the officer training program, and supported 217 more fire departments with training funded through the Cornerstone Program. With the recent inclusion of IEMA, IDOT, and IDOC statistics, IFSI increased the number of unique course deliveries by 56%. I am proud to report that we also served every county in the State of Illinois.

The growth of our organization led to the development and acquisition of onsite and mobile training props that adequately supported the needs of all fire departments. Onsite improvements included the expansion of live burn training as part of the Streetscape prop. We acquired several mobile training props, including a mobile driver simulator, roof prop, pump simulator, and multiple forcible entry doors. The ability to utilize these mobile training tools throughout the state allowed us to meet the needs of volunteer and paid-on-call fire departments unable to assume the additional costs of travel to receive training. All of these efforts were backed by the creation and launch of several blended training programs that supported the flexible scheduling needs of first responders. We will continue these updates and developments in FY19 in order to meet the needs of those we serve.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that our successes are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the professionals who make up the team of IFSI staff and instructors. In January 2017, we launched an aggressive marketing campaign, WE ARE IFSI, to recognize the individuals who work tirelessly to support our mission. The campaign was very well received by our stakeholders and contributed to a significant increase in our social media presence. Because of the success of this effort, we will continue to support the project in FY19. I encourage you to stay connected with these staff and program highlights as they showcase our daily successes and the commitment and passion of our elite team of professionals.

Our programs are unmatched. Our team is strong. And we are ready to embrace another year of challenges and great successes. Thank you for your support of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. It is my honor to support our mission of Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research.
ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

64% All Volunteer
15% Paid-On-Call Departments
11% Paid Departments
10% Combined Departments

42% Hazardous Materials
34% Firefighting Programs

1% Vehicle Extrication
2% Online
1% Fire Prevention & Investigation
1% Agriculture
1% EMS
2% NIMS/ICS
2% LDDM
1% Wildland
11% Other:

15% 9,906 Students Completed Courses at Main IFSI - Champaign Campus
28% 17,916 Students Completed Courses through IEMA/IDOT/IDOC
57% 36,149 Students Completed Courses at Locations Other than the IFSI Campus

ENROLLMENT BY CAREER TYPE

64% All Volunteer
15% Paid-On-Call Departments
11% Paid Departments
10% Combined Departments

STUDENT REGISTRATIONS BY LOCATION

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Jodi Beccue
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CORNERSTONE PROGRAM

The Cornerstone Program supports the delivery of essential skills training to local fire departments, MABAS Divisions and Mutual Aid Associations throughout the state. Training is coordinated through seven IFSI Regional Representatives. Courses are funded through the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and available at no cost to students or fire departments.

CORNERSTONE DELIVERY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes Delivered</th>
<th>Departments Served</th>
<th>Students Reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>484</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>11,022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delivery by Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Classes</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Class Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Region</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>1,911</td>
<td>10,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Metro</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1,661</td>
<td>9,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Central</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>1,449</td>
<td>6,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>7,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Region</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>6,181</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Region</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>2,281</td>
<td>11,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1,270</td>
<td>7,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>484</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,022</strong></td>
<td><strong>58,874</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The IFSI Leadership Team remained actively involved in the fire service profession across the state and world. In FY18, IFSI Director, Royal Mortenson, continued his service as Vice President of the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) organization. Deputy Director, Jim Keiken, also led the strategic planning efforts of the NAFTD.

In April 2018, IFSI Director of Research, Dr. Gavin Horn, was the keynote speaker at the Fire Department Instructors International Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis. This conference serves as one of the largest fire service gatherings in the world and brings in over 34,000 fire and rescue professionals from over 65 countries across the Globe.

CURRICULUM

The Illinois Fire Service Institute maintained accreditation with the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (ProBoard) and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). In FY18, IFSI held 29 ProBoard approved levels and 3 IFSAC approved levels.

The IFSI Curriculum and Testing staff scored 5,927 total IFSI exams and administered 242 OSFM exams at regional testing sites. The team was responsible for the update of 10 IFSI courses and the development of 7 new courses.

Test security and relevancy is critical to our programs. As a result, the IFSI unit also validated 9 test banks totaling 1812 questions. This led to the implementation of 16 new exams in IFSI courses.

FY18 Social Media Engagement

Facebook:
- Increased the number of Facebook followers by nearly 3,000 users. In FY18, IFSI reached over 15,000 followers and likes.
- Posted 50 training highlights videos to the Facebook page allowing us to reach 165,100 video views. This was an 18% increase from the previous year.

Twitter:
- Increased the number of Twitter followers by almost 300 users.
- Received 141,862 impressions from 172 tweets.

Instagram:
- Successfully launched the IFSI Instagram account. In the first year, we gained over 1,000 followers.

Media:
- IFSI was featured in over 25 TV news stories covered by local and national news outlets, including media from Springfield, Decatur, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Nashville markets.
FIREFIGHTING PROGRAMS

The IFSI Firefighting Program offers hands-on training opportunities for first responders. Courses provide students with a realistic learning experience.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM (SOTP)

The Illinois Fire Service Institute Special Operations Training Program (SOTP) delivers technical rescue training to first responders. Courses offer immersive training experiences that challenge even the most experienced students. IFSI SOTP is at the forefront of technical rescue training programs.

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

In FY18, the NIMS Program delivered 39 classes to 1,046 students in 24 training locations. This was an increase of 48% compared to the previous fiscal year. The program delivered 21,520 hours of training through 13 unique courses.

SPECIAL EVENTS

IFS1 offers affordable, hands-on training experiences throughout the year. In FY18, special event programs reached close to 1,000 students.

• The 94th Annual Fire College, America’s oldest continuous fire school, brought 385 firefighters to Champaign for hands-on training. Over the course of the four-day training event, IFSI reached 122 Illinois fire departments in addition to firefighters from four additional states and Brazil.

• The 23rd Annual Winter Fire School supported our effort to offer training throughout the calendar year. The two-day event served 308 first responders from 54 Illinois counties and 3 additional states.

• The 16th Annual Explorer Cadet Fire School offered students ages 15 to 20 from throughout the country a preview of a potential fire service career. During the four-day program, 230 students trained in basic and advanced firefighting skills.
LIBRARY

The IFSI Library is the only library in the state dedicated to fire and emergency services. It is also the third largest fire and emergency services library in the United States. The library holdings included 72,224 titles as of June 2018.

FY18 Highlights:

• The IFSI Library was named as Finalist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services 2017 National Medal of Honor for Museum and Library Services.

• The IFSI Library Team answered 5,342 reference requests, including 105 in-depth, long-term reference requests. 613 reference requests dedicated to IFSI instructors and staff; 105 reference requests dedicated to the Illinois Firefighters Life Safety Research Center; 129 reference requests related to the IFSI Curriculum Department; and 307 reference requests dedicated to international partners' research.

• The Library added 526 items to the collection, received 208 general donations, added 26 borrowers, loaned 1,228 items, received 12,684 views of library created online subject guides LibGuides, and filtered 99 items of IFSI Library materials to the Peoria Fire Academy.

The IFSI Library maintains the Illinois Firefighter Medal of Honor and Medal of Valor database and the Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Death Database (IFLODD). The staff also supports continued exhibitions in the IFSI Firefighter Memorial Hall. In FY18, 18 former instructors were added to the memorial exhibit.

• 64 new items submitted to IFLODD
• 805 firefighters with incident summaries
• 898 IFLODD firefighter records
• 91,105 IFLODD database hits since 5/2007

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

IFSI hosted the Librarians Scholarly Exchange Program for the 14th consecutive year. In FY18, 33 librarians attended the program. Since 2005, the program has trained 382 librarians from 130 organizations in China.

• In November 2017, IFSI delivered the fourth Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations training program in Huizhou, China. IFSI trained 28 Chinese first responders during the ProBoard certified course.

• In September 2017, 4 officers from the Hong Kong Fire Services Department attended the IFSI Hazardous Materials Technician course in Champaign. Since 2009, 58 Hong Kong officers have completed this training program.

• During FY2018, IFSI welcomed 29 Chinese visiting scholars to IFSI. Since 2008, IFSI has sponsored and received 82 visiting from multiple institutions in China.

RESEARCH

• IFSI Research collaborated on a proposal to study Bullying, Harassment and Resilience in the Fire Service with collaborators at NDRI, which was awarded a FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety grant

• IFSI Research led a proposal to study the impact of PPE and Base Layer on Fireground Vapor and Particulate Exposure Risk along with partners at NIOSH, UL FSRI and Globe, funded by DHS FP&S R&D grant

• IFSI Research and students from MechSE collaborated with UL FSRI to collect new measurements on trapped occupant risk (steam and burn risk as well as new measurements on HCN) as part of ULs Coordinated Fire Attack project in Sidney, OH

• Multiple new multimedia tools released for the Fire Service
  - Launched Online Toolkit for Cardiovascular and Chemical Exposure Risks in Today’s Fire Service project: [www.fsi.illinois.edu/CardioChemRisks](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/CardioChemRisks)
  - Created new videos to examine contaminated doffing of firefighting gloves ([https://t.co/ETRm1cIBpv](https://t.co/ETRm1cIBpv)) and hoods ([https://t.co/sWatoTAXDd](https://t.co/sWatoTAXDd)).
  - Published Firehouse Supplement 10 Considerations Related to Cardiovascular and Chemical Exposure Risks. [http://firehouse.com/special-content](http://firehouse.com/special-content)

• Completed data collection on large scale studies including our NIST funded Facepiece study, our DHS FP&S funded PPE Cleaning study and collaboration with UL FSRI on their FP&SR R&D funded Training Fires project.
IFSI's many strategic affiliations allow us to share knowledge and resources with leading educators, researchers, corporations, professional associations, and other organizations. In addition to those listed, we are grateful for the support received through fire service vendors and suppliers who contribute to fulfilling our mission.

**IFSI AFFILIATES:**

- Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
- Illinois Firefighters Association
- Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts
- Chicago Fire Department
- Illinois Propane Education and Research Council (IPERC)
- Illinois Petroleum Resources Board
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Fire Services Association
- State of Illinois Fire Caucus
- Underwriters Laboratories
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

The Illinois Fire Service Institute received $2,367,000 in gifts in-kind from corporate partners and other entities.

**AFFILIATE SUPPORT**

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The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) is the statutory State Fire Academy for Illinois. It serves as the oldest continuous fire training institution in the United States. Since 1925, first responders from across the state and world have relied on IFSI to deliver hands-on, innovative, and top-quality training, education, and research.