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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

IFSI recognizes instructors under new program

CHAMPAIGN IL November 15, 2013. The University of Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) recognizes instructors who exemplify quality instruction, student engagement, professional demeanor and knowledge base. November is the second month that IFSI instructors has been chosen and are being recognized.

Shawn Bloemker has been an instructor for IFSI since 2004 and is best known for his smoke behavior knowledge. Shawn wrote the IFSI Fire Behavior and Smoke curriculum and was responsible for developing IFSI fire behavior box that has been instrumental as an instruction tool and with research activities. Shawn serves on the Godfrey Fire Protection District and was recently named Assistant Chief of that department.

Tom Rushing has been an instructor for IFSI since 1996 and has taught the Certified Firefighter II Academy since 2000. Tom currently serves as IFSI's Program Manager for Champaign campus Light and Fight training classes. He serves as an engineer on the Urbana Fire Department and has been a volunteer with the Homer (Illinois) Fire Protection District for 31 years.

Pat Reynolds also is being recognized in November. He has been an instructor for IFSI since 1995, specializing in Hazardous Materials training. He has been involved with curriculum development for almost every HazMat class. Pat has served on the Lisle Woodridge Fire District for 25 years and as Captain for two and a half years.

"IFSI instructors are the finest in the state and nation. Their commitment to excellence is at the heart of our mission success to bring the finest training, education, research and information to the firefighters of Illinois," Royal Mortenson, Director for IFSI said.

The institute will be recognizing instructors each month from nominations from field staff and leadership.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute is the statutory State Fire Academy for Illinois. In addition to training provided at its Champaign campus, the Institute offers one-day hands-on classes for fire departments at Regional Training Centers and local fire stations across the State. The mission of the Illinois Fire Service Institute is to help firefighters do their work through training, education, information and research.

For more information about the Institute, call 217-333-3800.

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