



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### Senator Edward D. Maloney Addresses SIUC Graduates

Grayslake, IL (December 15, 2011) –State Senator Edward D. Maloney was the commencement speaker last Saturday at a ceremony honoring the 16<sup>th</sup> cohort of adult students to earn the Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at the University Center of Lake County through a program offered by Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Sen. Maloney told the group that, as the Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, he saw colleges and universities playing a vital role in the State’s economy in addition to making a difference in the lives of individuals and communities. Citing a statewide research finding that to remain competitive and meet future workforce needs, Illinois must increase the number of adult students who attain a quality post-secondary credential, he congratulated the class on becoming part of the solution. “Perhaps in the past it was possible to undereducate a significant portion of the population without causing serious harm to a state or the nation - but not any longer,” he told the group.

Maloney urged the class to become “dreamers of the day,” specifying that “In the night, people dream knowing those dreams go away in the day. In the day, they dream them and work to realize them.” Fourteen graduates are now poised to realize their shared dream of becoming elementary education teachers. Another four students expect to complete their student-teaching in the Spring 2012 semester.

Dr. Lynn C. Smith, Department Chair, Curriculum & Instruction, journeyed from Carbondale to confer the degrees in a warm ceremony that included SIUC Clinical Supervisors Carol Crane and Edward Noyes describing the accomplishments of each graduate in detail. Graduates Rebeca Cambray, Kerrie Ellis, Pia Gordon, and Roxanne McGinn spoke on behalf of the class.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is one of the nineteen colleges and universities that compose the University Center of Lake County. For more information about programs offered through the University Center of Lake County, visit its website [www.ucenter.org](http://www.ucenter.org) or call 847/665-4000.

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Contact: Hilary Ward Schnadt, Associate Dean  
University Center of Lake County  
1200 University Center Drive  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
847/665-4004 or [hwschnadt@ucenter.org](mailto:hwschnadt@ucenter.org)



COME HERE. GO FAR.

(Pictured below, L-R: Griff Powell, Site Coordinator, SIUC/UC Elementary Education Program; G. Gary Grace, Executive Director & Dean, University Center of Lake County; Edward D. Maloney, Illinois State Senator, 18<sup>th</sup> District; Lynn C. Smith, Department Chair, Curriculum & Instruction, SIUC; Edward Noyes, SIUC Clinical Supervisor, immediately after SIUC's December 10, 2011 commencement ceremony. )

