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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PEORIA PROMISE 2023-2024 APPLICATION OPENS,
EXPANDS TO INCLUDE WEST PEORIA STUDENTS**

Applications will open February 1, 2023 for **Peoria Promise**, a tuition reimbursement program aimed at increasing the number of high school graduates who complete advanced schooling, thereby fostering a more skilled workforce in the region.

While the program has always been open to students living in the city of Peoria, this year's application pool has been expanded to include the city of West Peoria. Students who have lived in either of these cities, while attending any qualified* public or private high school, are eligible to apply now for tuition reimbursement for the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 semesters at Illinois Central College.

"The board's decision to include students who live in West Peoria is a logical progression," said Executive Director M J Schettler. "With the overlap in our communities, coupled by the fact that West Peoria students attend city of Peoria high schools, we can now expand our application benefits."

Over the past 15 years, Peoria Promise has provided \$7 million of tuition support — provided entirely by — investors, to over 5,000 students. One hundred percent of funding is from the local business community. "We want to help as many students as we can get the much-needed postsecondary education to pursue their career paths," continued Schettler. "With the expansion to West Peoria, and the fact that Peoria Promise does NOT receive any local, state or federal tax dollars, we will be increasing our fundraising initiatives as well. The investments our generous supporters make help to grow the skilled workforce needed for our community."

Interested students should go to www.peoriapromise.org to confirm eligibility requirements, review full program details, and complete necessary applications by May 15, 2023.

**Peoria Promise is a not for profit 501C (3) organization solely focused on provided tuition reimbursement to City of Peoria and West Peoria high school graduates from ALL Peoria feeder high schools: Manual, Richwoods, Peoria High, Peoria Alternative, Peoria Quest, Dunlap, Limestone, Peoria Notre Dame, and Peoria Christian. Qualified GED students and Accredited Home School students who meet program eligibility may also apply.*

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