

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY BANDS

April 1, 2009

Illinois State University Bands would like to invite your marching band to join us in the *State of Illinois Invitational Marching Band Championship* on October 24th, 2009.

The application form is enclosed in this envelope. Please fill out all information and return as soon as possible, as the performance slots are taken rather quickly each spring. You may fax to 309-438-2477. Entry fee for the championship is \$500.00, payable to *Illinois State University Bands*, and more information is available in the "events" area of our website, www.bands.ilstu.edu.

The goal of the ISU *State of Illinois Invitational High School Marching Band Championship* has always been to be THE BEST event of its kind. We are constantly seeking ways to improve, and, to that end, Ken Snoeck has been hired as Chief Judge and Adjudication Coordinator. As a result, a few significant changes have been made for the 2009 contest.

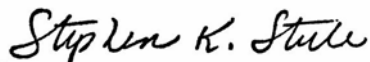
What has been asked of the judging panel has been extremely challenging. It is virtually impossible to remain at peak awareness and react effectively and consistently over the sixteen hour day.

Most directors, if not all, want to have the most accurate evaluation of their students' work and the most valid comparison of the students' achievement to the others in the contest. To accomplish this, we are changing the makeup of the judging panel; shifting to separate panels of judges for prelims and finals. The 2009 preliminary and final panels will be single panels. That is: two music effect judges instead of four and one visual effect judge instead of two. This makeup is now consistent with the adjudication panels of regional and national contests.

The final change for 2009 is the elimination of the separate percussion and color guard judges which have been employed for the preliminary contest. The reality is that the visual judge is responsible for evaluating the guard, and the music judge is responsible for evaluating the percussionists. It is our responsibility to hire the best adjudicators available: judges that are experienced and qualified to do this accurately and effectively. The important point is that the reward should go to the best band - *the collaborative efforts of all the performers, teachers and designers to create a performance integrating all of the elements seamlessly.*

We hope that these changes will enhance *The State of Illinois Invitational High School Marching Band Championship*, and provide the best possible experience for your programs. If you have questions, please contact the band department at (309) 438-8834 or e-mail at dabelon@illinoisState.edu.

Sincerely,



Stephen K. Steele
Director of Bands



Daniel A. Belongia
Assistant Director of Bands

Enclosure