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Jesse White Honors “Be A Hero” Community College Winners

White recognizes top three schools for their efforts to encourage organ/tissue donation

Secretary of State Jesse White honored three Illinois community colleges that were the top winners of his office’s “Be A Hero” Organ/Tissue Donor Campaign.

“I want to congratulate Elgin Community College on being named the first place winner and for their registration efforts and creative campaign,” White said. “By registering donors and bringing awareness to the program they are saving lives. I commend Lake Land College and Olney Central College for their efforts as well and thank all the community colleges that participated in this meaningful program.”

Elgin Community College (ECC) won first place by submitting their registrations, a creative campaign that included registration drives, classroom information sessions about organ/tissue donation and superhero impersonators to promote the effort on campus.

Lake Land College (LLC) in Mattoon received second place by submitting their registrations, creating a campaign that included registration and blood drives, social media outreach, displays of banners and promotional materials across campus, a tree planting and a time capsule promoting organ and tissue donation.

Olney Central College (OCC) won third place with a creative campaign that included registration drives at the school’s basketball games and campus center, distribution of posters and flyers and education outreach on the misconceptions of organ/tissue donation.

ECC will receive a \$1,500 scholarship for one of its students through Donate Life Illinois, a group of organizations that works with the Secretary of State’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program.

The contest began on February 1 and 19 community colleges participated. The awards ceremony was held at the State Capitol in Springfield in Secretary White’s office.

Currently, there are more than 5.7 million people registered to become organ/tissue donors in Illinois. However, more than 5,000 people are on the waiting list and about 300 people die each year waiting for an organ transplant. One donor can save or greatly improve up to 25 lives.

Illinoisans can join the donor registry through the Secretary of State’s Organ/Tissue Donor Program at LifeGoesOn.com, 800-210-2106 or by visiting their local Driver Services facility.

Donate Life Illinois partners include the American Liver Foundation-Illinois, Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network; Saving Sight; Eversight Illinois; Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program; LifeSource; Mid-America Transplant Services; Rock River Valley Blood Center; and National Kidney Foundation of Illinois.

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