

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE**



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## **IFSI recognizes leadership team instructors**

CHAMPAIGN IL May 22, 2014. The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign recognizes instructors who exemplify quality instruction, student engagement, professional demeanor and knowledge. In May, IFSI recognizes the instructors who are developing the first Leadership Development and Decision-Making curriculum in the Fire Service. Their 18 months of work was the subject of a Leadership Development Workshop at IFSI in late March. The team of 14 worked closely together over the last 18 months to develop “cradle-to-grave”, new and innovative ways to train and educate leadership and decision-making in the fire service.

Chief Lew Lake leads the team under the guidance of IFSI’s Director Royal Mortenson and with the encouragement and support of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Illinois Fire Services Association, and the State Fire Marshal. With the results of the March workshop, attended by over 100 firefighters of all ranks, the team will continue to develop pilot courses to be delivered by IFSI in late 2014 and into 2015. They will continue to meet and work with other stakeholders to refine the curriculum.

Members of the team include: Sean Burke, Steve Gambrell, Lew Lake, Jason Loeb, Tim Meister, Heather Moore, Jim Moore, Brian Scott, Tom Shubert, Richard Stack, Jim Vaughn, Tony Vespa, Peter Van Dorpe, and Zack Riddle. Together the team represents almost 100 years of instructing with IFSI and more than twice that for affiliation with the fire service.

“We assembled established leaders from around the state and with a variety of ranks and levels of responsibility to bring this process together. The sharpest minds in the Illinois Fire Service are playing key roles in developing this leadership curriculum,” Royal Mortenson, Director of IFSI said.

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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PHOTO CAPTION: Pictured left to right: Sean Burke, Steve Gambrill, Tony Vespa, Tom Shubert, Jim Vaughn, Jim Moore, Heather Moore, Brian Scott, Lew Lake, Tim Meister and Jason Loeb. Team members not pictured: Richard Stack, Peter Van Dorpe, Zack Riddle.