

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Kenneth E. Foster
IALC President
520-621-3024
kfoster@ag.arizona.edu

University of Illinois Member Chairs Committee for IALC

June 4, 2003 – Champaign, IL – Rick Schoell, Executive Director of Governmental Relations and Director for Federal Relations at the University of Illinois, lends his expertise as the university's representative member on the Board of Directors for the International Arid Lands Consortium and Chair of the Committee on Program Priorities, according to Kenneth E. Foster, president. The Committee informs and advises the board on program development and new program opportunities, recommends actions and solutions on problems facing the consortium, and recommends new priorities when needed.

"The IALC is a valuable asset to the University of Illinois scientists because it puts them front and center to address critical issues of ecological restoration and combating desertification around the globe, while also bringing them into contact with other Consortium member scientists to work in a collaborative fashion," said Mr. Schoell from his home in Illinois. "I am deeply honored to assist the IALC meet its worthy goals and objectives."

Mr. Schoell holds both a Bachelor and Master degree from the University of Iowa. Prior to joining the University of Illinois, Rick served for five years as Director of the Illinois State Legislature's Washington, D.C. office. Before Washington, he worked for three years as a research analyst for the Illinois Commission on Intergovernmental Cooperation in Springfield, Illinois. He also spent time as State Government Relations Manager for Household International Incorporated in Prospect Heights, Illinois.

"Rick's previous experience in governmental relations at both federal, state, and local levels provides the International Arid Lands Consortium with the guidance necessary to advance arid land research, training, and technology in the Middle East and throughout the world," said Dr. Foster.

Mr. Schoell has served as Co-Chair of the Council on Governmental Affairs and was a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Rick was also a past member of the National Conference of State Legislature Executive Committee and was a part time instructor for courses in American Government and Politics at Lincoln Land Community College.

###

The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the problems and solutions unique to arid and semiarid regions. IALC promotes cooperative research and practical application of new knowledge to develop sustainable ecological practices. The member institutions share a mission to enable people of arid lands to improve the quality of life for future generations. IALC members include the University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.