
Illinois Board of Higher Education

Who We Are & What We Do

Judy Erwin
Executive Director



www.ibhe.org

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Chairwoman

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is responsible for planning and coordinating the state's system of higher education. The Board's statutory responsibilities include:

- **Master Planning** - Analyze the aims, needs, and requirements of Illinois higher education. Modify policies that guide the state's system of public and private colleges and universities.
- **Budget** - Recommend to the Governor and the General Assembly budgetary needs for higher education institutions and agencies.
- **Program Approval** - Approve or deny proposals by public university governing boards and the Illinois Community College Board for new units of instruction, research, or public service. Review existing instruction, research, or public service programs to determine their continued educational and economic justification.
- **Institution Approval** - Authorize independent and out-of-state institutions to operate and offer degree programs in Illinois. Conduct on-going reviews to assure that these institutions maintain the conditions under which they were authorized to operate and grant degrees, and revoke operating authority as determined necessary.
- **Grants Administration** - Administer state and federal grant programs.
- **Information Systems** - Maintain information system about Illinois higher education.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education is comprised of 16 members: 10 appointed to six-year terms by the Governor (with the advice and consent of the State Senate); one appointed by the Governor to a one-year term (does not require Senate confirmation) to represent public universities; one appointed by the Governor to a one-year term (does not require Senate confirmation) to represent private colleges and universities; the chairs of the Illinois Community College Board and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission; and 2 students selected by the Board's Student Advisory Committee, 1 of whom is to be a nontraditional student. The Governor designates the person who serves as chair; members of the Board select a vice-chair from among their membership.

Planning and Policy Development

The Board of Higher Education's policy and planning responsibility is carried out in a variety of ways, from ad hoc study committees and special task forces to initiatives of the Board. Recent studies and policy endeavors include:

- *The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, December 2008 (See last page for additional information.)
- *Illinois Dual Credit Task Force Report*, December, 2008
- *Setting a Context for FY 2010 Budget Development*, August, 2008
- *Gender Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics*, April, 2008
- *Underrepresented Groups Report*, December, 2007
- *Feasibility of Textbook Rental Programs and Other Textbook Cost Savings in Illinois Public Higher Education*, February, 2007
- *School Leader Preparation: A Blueprint for Change*, August, 2006

Budget and Fiscal Affairs

The Board of Higher Education coordinates development of a budget blueprint for all of higher education. The budget process begins with submittal of budget requests from public universities, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, the State Universities Civil Service System, and the State Universities Retirement System. IBHE staff consult with

representatives of institutions and state agencies to discuss state and campus priorities, programmatic needs, and state revenue projections as a prelude to developing a preliminary budget proposal. After discussions with the Board and higher education constituent groups, final budget recommendations for operations and grants and for capital spending are presented to the Board for action in February. After approval by the Board, the budget recommendations are forwarded to the Governor and General Assembly.

Program Approval

The Board of Higher Education approves all new units of instruction, research, and public service, as well as new academic administrative units, for public colleges and universities in the state. The Board also undertakes periodic review of all existing units of instruction, research, and public service to advise the appropriate governing board whether such programs continue to be educationally and economically justified. Both of these activities are initiated at the campus or institutional level and reviewed by the appropriate governing board before being submitted to the Board staff for analysis and presentation to the Board of Higher Education. Proposals for new programs and reviews of existing programs for public community colleges and public universities are analyzed in the context of the institution's mission, focus, and priorities. Budget and planning documents prepared by the colleges and universities are submitted annually to the Board of Higher Education and contain programmatic plans related to institutional objectives.

The Board of Higher Education also has statutory responsibility to approve operating authority and degree-granting authority for certain independent and out-of-state institutions operating within the State of Illinois. In addition, the Board must approve all new degree programs proposed by those independent institutions established or beginning to offer degrees after August 14, 1961. Moreover, the Board carries out ongoing reviews of those independent institutions operating and offering degrees under the Board's authorization to assure that the institutions maintain the conditions under which the original authority to operate or grant degrees was given. The Board has the power to revoke its authorization if an institution fails to sustain the conditions required by the initial approval to operate or grant degrees.

Grants Administration

The Board administers state and federal grant programs that provide financial assistance to public and non-public higher education institutions, with each program playing a significant role in advancing the policy agenda for Illinois higher education. The IBHE grant programs provide opportunities for colleges and universities to extend and supplement services to students through projects funded under a variety of programs such as: the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Higher Education Program (DFI); Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program; No Child Left Behind-Improving Teacher Quality Program; Nurse Education Fellowship Program; and Nursing School Grant Program, all funded in Fiscal Year 2009.

Information Systems

Data collected and maintained by the Board fall into three broad categories: demographic information about enrolled students and degree recipients; faculty and staff information; and characteristics of individual colleges and universities. Among the information resources available from the Board of Higher Education are: Data Book, Student Financial Aid Survey, Degree Program Inventory, Fall Enrollment and Federal data (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems), including enrollment, degrees, staff, finance, and graduation rates.



THE ILLINOIS PUBLIC AGENDA FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS

What it is: The *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* is a planning blueprint for the State of Illinois to direct state policies and resources to the higher education and career needs of Illinois residents and to address the current and future economic needs of the state.

Illinois needs effective and quality education for all people.
The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success
will create one Illinois ready to face the future.

- Goal 1:** *Increase educational attainment to match the best performing states.*
- Goal 2:** *Ensure college affordability for students, families and taxpayers.*
- Goal 3:** *Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society.*
- Goal 4:** *Better integrate Illinois' educational, research, and innovation assets to meet economic needs of the state and its regions.*

For full Illinois Public Agenda and ongoing updates, go to:

www.ibhe.org

If you have questions, comments, or would like copies, please email:

publicagenda@ibhe.org