

**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS IN ILLINOIS HIGHER EDUCATION**

Submitted for: Information.

Summary: This annual report presents information on the students and faculty who are identified as underrepresented groups - minorities, females, and persons with disabilities - at Illinois public and private institutions.

Action Requested: None.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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Background

Pursuant to the statutory requirements included in the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205), this annual report on underrepresented groups presents information on minority, female, and disabled students and staff in Illinois higher education. This year's report differs from previous reports as it begins the process of aligning the report with the recently adopted *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

Executive Summary

This report is tied directly to Goal 1 of the *Illinois Public Agenda*: "Increase educational attainment to match the best-performing U.S. states and world countries." To achieve that goal, the Public Agenda recommends a focus on the "success of students at each stage of the P-20 education pipeline to eliminate achievement gaps by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and disability."

The 2009 report is a mixture of encouraging trends and continuing gaps in educational attainment. The good news is that the numbers of students and faculty from underrepresented groups participating in higher education are up. The recurring news is that Hispanic, Black, and American Indian students remain underrepresented in Illinois colleges and universities, with significant gaps in educational attainment.

In the report, the Board recommends the following actions: (1) implement the various strategies and action steps in the *Illinois Public Agenda for Career and College Success* to help close the student achievement gap; (2) sustain funding for the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois program to create a more diverse faculty; and (3) request revision of the underrepresented groups statutes to better reflect the educational conditions and needs of underrepresented populations in Illinois higher education.

