

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

**Submitted for:** Information.

**Summary:** This annual report presents data and information on college participation and degree completion of underrepresented students groups at public institutions of higher education in conjunction with Goal 1 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for Career and College Success*.

**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 underserved student groups based on Goal 1 of the *Illinois Public Agenda for Career and College Success*.

**Executive Summary**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education's 2010 Underrepresented Groups (URG) Report to the Governor and General Assembly presents data and information on college participation levels and degree completion of underrepresented student groups based on goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*. This information includes demographic enrollment rates, degree/certificate completion, graduation rates, and tuition/affordability information from the state's public institutions of higher education.

Last year's (2009) URG report found that African American population constituted a large percentage of the state's high school dropout population. The dropout rate of Illinois students was described as a "leaky student pipeline" in terms of high school graduation and college enrollment for all student groups. The 2010 report found the rate of African American dropouts has remained consistent with the 2009 levels. African Americans represent approximately 21 percent of the Illinois student body, but make up 45 percent of its dropouts. The second largest minority group, the Hispanic population, represents 17 percent of the Illinois student body and comprises 23 percent of the state's dropouts. Illinois education has to transcend achievement gaps to accomplish statewide economic success.

Subsequently, it is the recommendation of this Board that the progress of minority males - a recurring theme from last year's report - receive focused attention based on their enrollment, participation, and completion rates throughout the P-20 system. As stated in the *Public Agenda*, "Illinois needs effective and quality education for all people." It is thereby imperative that a continued strategy be pursued to address the college readiness, educational attainment, and financial needs of underserved students and that these resources are available to ensure the success of all Illinois students.

