

DIMITRA GEORGOUSES

We, the Members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, extend our deep appreciation and esteem to Dimitra Georgouses for her dedicated service to postsecondary students in Illinois and her contributions to the Board as its student representative.

Having served as an active member of the IBHE Student Advisory Committee, Dimitra led by example as a student passionate about access and affordability for Illinois' students. She worked her way through the leadership ranks as the IBHE-SAC secretary and Chair, before her peers chose her to represent them on this Board. She has been equally active as a Board Member, giving her time and energy as a member of the Higher Education Finance Study Commission as well as on the ad hoc MAP Grant Task Force. She also held an internship at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission during the Spring, 2011, semester. Her knowledge, experience, and example have brought an important perspective in helping to deepen understanding of the financial pressures faced by college students, and she has been a strong and effective voice on issues of affordability.

We applaud Dimitra's impressive accomplishments, both educationally and in public service. Dimitra attended Roosevelt University and graduated with distinction in May. She was an invaluable student leader and scholar on campus. She also chaired the Coalition of Chicago Colleges.

Dimitra has been an activist in higher education advocacy as well. She served as a Lobby Day Leader for Roosevelt University, and helped organize and participated in the successful SAVE MAP campaign in Fall 2010. Dimitra captured the attention of legislators, who realized that the Monetary Award Program is an essential state investment in its future by providing financial support to thousands of Illinoisans pursuing postsecondary degrees and promising careers in Illinois. Her message will continue to be heard as a student voice on the importance of college affordability in a video series that promotes the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*.

We will miss Dimitra's passionate, persistent, and persuasive voice, her valuable insights, and her spirit of public service in furthering social justice. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education
June 7, 2011*