

APPROVED
OCTOBER 6, 2015

**Illinois Board of Higher Education Board Resolution
Encouraging Resolution to the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Impasse**

WHEREAS, the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success* requires increased academic achievement, college affordability, and college completions by more Illinoisans in order for Illinois to achieve economic growth and vitality; and

WHEREAS, effective and quality college education requires state funding for the operations of our public institutions of higher education and financial assistance for low income students to achieve college degrees if Illinois is to increase the number of citizens with a postsecondary degree to 60 percent by 2025 to meet workforce demands; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Board of Higher Education is keenly aware of the uncertainty the lack of a Fiscal Year 2016 budget is creating for Illinois college students, professors and staff at Illinois' 48 community colleges and twelve public universities some of whose very existence is being threatened; and

WHEREAS, the Board is sincerely concerned that the 125,000 Illinois college students that are eligible for the Monetary Award Program have not received state MAP funding; and

WHEREAS, the budget uncertainty is threatening the quality and talent in our colleges and universities by encouraging students, faculty, and staff to seek careers outside of the state imposing long term damage on our capacity to serve the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Illinois Board of Higher Education strongly urges an immediate adoption of a state budget that will provide security for students dependent on state financial aid, ensure financial stability to community colleges and public universities, and deliver to Illinois public higher education the resources needed to accelerate and sustain the state's economic health; and be it further

RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, the Leaders of the General Assembly and the leadership of the higher education community.

Approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education
October 6, 2015

