

Applegate's Update

Forging Ahead in Uncharted Territory

As we forge further into what even the most veteran Illinois higher education colleagues tell me is uncharted territory without a budget, the consequences for our students and institutions grow. At this week's October 6 IBHE meeting in Chicago, the Board met with leaders from Illinois public and private higher education to discuss the growing harm being done. The Board heard of adult education and workforce training programs which either have not been started or have closed; classes being cancelled because vendors cut off necessary lab supplies; and growing indicators of talent loss as students, faculty, and staff seek safe harbors in this stormy time. While there was a strong focus on the impact of the current impasse on our low income MAP students (many institutions will NOT be able to front their costs for next semester as they did this semester), the point was clearly made that the lack of a base state appropriation poses the greatest threat to the operational integrity of our public community colleges and universities. Following the discussion the Board unanimously passed a [resolution](#) calling on our state leaders to pass a budget immediately. Of course, our institutions' administrators know that, even with quick passage it could be months before they see a significant infusion of support or MAP payments. This comes on the heels of similar calls from the public university presidents' October 1 [letter](#) and the IBHE- Student Advisory Committee [resolution](#) passed on October 3.

Also at the meeting, the Board reviewed the penultimate draft of an analysis of college affordability issues in Illinois, providing clear recommendations for next steps in improving college affordability. In its [review of mid-point trends in Illinois higher education](#) tied to the goals of the *Illinois Public Agenda's* 10 year strategic plan for higher education, the Board identified the steep decline in college affordability over the last five years and identified improving affordability as one of four priorities over the next several years. It created teams to develop goals, metrics, and strategies to address these priorities. The Affordability Action Team's recommendations provide clear direction for the work to improve college affordability in Illinois. The final analysis will be available soon.



Partnerships panel at the October 6 Board meeting at Roosevelt University. L to R: Chetna Patel, Aurora University; Tom Cross, Aurora University; Robert Greenlee, Illinois Science & Technology Coalition; and Beth Doyle, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL).

The Board has identified greater involvement of our employers and business leaders as crucial to efforts to reach Illinois' goal to have 60 percent of its workforce with a quality college credential by 2025. That goal is a state goal, not just a higher education goal. To reach it will require partnerships that cross education, business, political, and non-profit sectors at the least. At the meeting the Board heard from experts who have forged successful partnerships in Illinois and facilitated those partnerships nationally. Collaboration is hard work but the panel discussions set the stage for implementing effective practices to create such partnerships. The agency will particularly be focused on employer engagement in the context of the regional economic development work it is leading through the legislatively created [Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce](#).

Last, but not at all least, there is other good news to share. IBHE's strong work with early childhood educator programs is getting attention. In a recent report in [Catalyst Chicago](#), a very useful article describes the state grant program IBHE, in partnership with other sister state agencies including ICCB, OECD, ISBE, and DHS, is working successfully with nearly 70 percent of the 80 Illinois early childhood education programs. College teams are partnering with early childhood workers to support quality education for early education teachers and create pathways for them to more easily attain postsecondary certificates and degrees. Recent national research reports have shown that for early childhood education to have long term impact this kind of work is needed to ensure quality and teacher support. When the focus is simply on access without such support the positive impact of early childhood education is minimized. At IBHE we know that in the long term quality early childhood education for our most vulnerable students is essential to reaching our goals and ensuring equity while making Illinois an educated state

A recent [report](#) showing that 2.8 of the 2.9 million good jobs (\$53+K salary with benefits) created nationally during the recovery went to those with college degrees reinforces how important our work is as members of Illinois' higher education community. Thanks to everyone reading this. By redoubling your efforts in the face of strong headwinds, the journey to the goal to provide quality college education to more Illinois citizens is still underway, even if the path has entered uncharted territory.



*Western Illinois University and IBHE fiscal staff
at the September 29 WIU budget meeting in Macomb.*

The [IBHE Student Advisory Committee](#) kicked off its 2015-16 year at its October 2-3 meeting, hosted by students from Argosy University Chicago. IBHE-SAC leaders, Chair **Mekenah Merrill** (UIUC, '16) and Secretary **William Osborne** (UIS, '16) conducted the first meeting of the year, focused on establishing leaders and plans for the four subcommittees (Academic Affairs, Non-academic & Diversity, Budget & Access, and Outreach).



IBHE Student Advisory Committee Members at their October meeting at Argosy University Chicago.

A [resolution](#) urging state leaders to pass a Fiscal Year 2016 budget immediately was adopted during the business meeting. Information about a **Student Day of Action** in Springfield on **October 20** was shared. Next meeting is scheduled for [Nov. 20, 4 - 7 pm](#) and [Nov. 21, 9 am - 12 pm at the University of Illinois at Springfield.](#)

[Illinois College Application Month](#) (ICAM) kicks off in October with events and activities throughout the month to help students and returning adults increase career opportunities and improve earning power by applying to and going to college. From college application and financial aid workshops to college treasure hunts and college gear day, ICAM activities will provide direct assistance to students with the college search and application process. Supported by the [Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) (ISAC), ICAM is part of the nationwide **American College Application Campaign** (ACAC) initiative which seeks to increase the number of students who are applying to college early in their senior year, especially those who might not otherwise consider it. Visit the [College Changes Everything](#) website to fill out a [registration form](#), and access a [College Implementation Guide](#) and other downloadable tools to make Illinois' College Application Month activities a success.

Complete College America's 2015 Annual Convening

is being held October 12-13, with more than 250 higher education leaders, state legislators, and faculty gathering in Denver, Colorado, to share results and make plans for implementation of CCA's Game Changer strategies. The ILLINOIS CCA Team includes IBHE Executive Director **Jim Applegate**, IBHE Assistant Director of Academic Affairs **Malinda Aiello**, Southern Illinois University President **Randy Dunn**, Representative **Bob Pritchard**, ICCB External Affairs Liaison **Matt Berry**, and **Niketa Brar** from Governor Rauner's Office.

COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

The Annual Convening agenda is available [here](#). You can be a part of the event. You can view the Annual Convening by [viewing the livestream](#) and you can be a part of the discussion on Twitter by using **#AnnualConvening**.

Increasing Adult Degree Completion

The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL), in partnership with IBHE, ICCB and IDVA, has recently completed a state-wide survey of Illinois postsecondary institutions. This survey was conducted as part of a project stemming from Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) in order to explore the many ways in which Illinois colleges and universities are recognizing the military learning of student veterans. Survey results will aid in creating a comprehensive picture of prior learning assessment for student veterans in the state of Illinois, a strategy that allows these students to accelerate toward degree and credential attainment. **Two information sessions are planned to share the final report and facilitate a discussion** about the results and next steps, including the inauguration of a state-wide military prior learning assessment task force, pursuant to implementation of [Public Act 99-0395](#). The dates, locations, and times of the two events are as follows:

Springfield

October 27, 10 am-12 pm
Lincoln Land Community College
Trutter Center
5250 Shepherd Rd
Springfield, IL 62794

[Springfield Registration](#)

Chicago

October 28, 12-2 pm
DePaul Center
Room 8009
1 E Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

[Chicago Registration](#)

[Illinois Issues: State Hopes To Lure Adults Back To College](#)

Illinois needs more college-educated workers and can't meet that goal with classic college students – 18-22 year old high school graduates. The programs and profiles of adults going to college from Governors State University and the University of Illinois at Springfield are featured in this report on what is needed to attract and support graduation success for the contemporary college student. **WUIS/Illinois Issues** reporter **Dusty Rhodes** interviewed IBHE Executive Director **Jim Applegate** about the increasing adult degree completion.

Other News

COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING

2015 College Changes Everything Conference Presentations are now available. The presentations and other reference materials from the 2015 College Changes Everything Conference can be accessed at [the conference website](#).

The **Illinois Department of Public Health** has announced funds available for a **Heartsaver AED Grant**. The grant program provides matching funds for automated external defibrillators to any school, public park district, municipal recreation department, conservation district, forest preserve district, **college or university** in the State of Illinois. The application and training instructions for submission of the grant are available in the Department's [Electronic Grant Administration and Management System](#) (EGrAMS). Any questions regarding EGrAMS can be directed to the [DPH's Grant Review division](#) or [Paula Atteberry](#) at 217-785- 2083.

People in the News

Chicago State University has announced **Dr. Thomas J. Calhoun, Jr.** appointed as its **22nd president**. A native of Tuskegee, Alabama, he is currently Vice President for Enrollment Management at the University of North Alabama and was as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has held various academic and administrative roles at University of Washington, Morehouse College, St. Lawrence University, and with Chicago Public Schools. Dr. Calhoun earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership at the University of Washington, a master's degree from the University of Chicago, and bachelor's degrees from Tuskegee University. He is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He will start in January 2016, succeeding current president **Wayne D. Watson**.



The [Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education](#) (ILACHE) has elected **Dr. Daniel Lopez** President of the ILACHE Board. Dr. Lopez serves as Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Northeastern Illinois University. ILACHE's mission is to create an awareness of issues impacting Latinos in higher education and to provide a statewide forum for Latino educators, community representatives, and other supporters for the social and professional advancements of Latinos. ILACHE is a statewide organization dedicated to the advancement of the status of Latinos through educational policy reform, advocacy,

identification of best practices, and the dissemination of research and information.

[Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Dr. Amelia Perez](#) has been named as a "40-Under-40 Emerging Nurse Leader." Perez is an assistant professor and coordinator of the Simulation Learning Center for Health Sciences in the SIUE School of Nursing. The **Illinois Nurses Foundation** and **Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition** presented the award which recognizes 40 nurses in Illinois under age



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