

Applegate's Update

The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved [IBHE's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Recommendation](#) for higher education operations, grants, and capital improvements at its December 1 meeting. IBHE is charged with developing annual budget recommendations for all of higher education in Illinois. The Board acknowledges the state's fiscal challenges and how difficult it is to plan for the ensuing fiscal year when the current fiscal year budget is still undetermined. However, the Board has presented these recommendations for Fiscal Year 2017 to the Governor and General Assembly not only to comply with its mandate under the Higher Education Act, but also to provide an opportunity for the Board to contribute to the budget development process in a timely way with an emphasis on the critical importance of state support for Illinois' public higher education system.

The FY 2017 budget request is unique in two ways. First, it was created through months of negotiations with stakeholders, without knowing what the FY 2016 budget for higher education will be. IBHE staff met with all the public universities, the Illinois Math and Science Academy, and all state higher education agencies over the past four months. We listened, and learned about program priorities, fiscal challenges, and campus and agency goals for implementing effective and efficient operations, now and for the coming budget year.

Second, IBHE is submitting its budget request in conjunction with a resolution passed by the Board at the December 1, 2015 meeting, calling for the development of the [Illinois Higher Education Compact](#). Comprised of a partnership including leaders of higher education, leaders of the General Assembly, representatives of the Office of the Governor and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the purpose of the Compact is to develop strategies, over a 3-year period, which bring robust and sustainable funding to the state's higher education system and improves affordability, effectiveness, student success and economic growth in Illinois. The goal of the Compact is to create a shared commitment from the state and its higher education system; with the state publically committing to robust and predictable investment in higher education over at least a three year period, and the higher education system committing to become measurably more efficient and effective and affordable for the benefit of Illinois students. Other states have done this work and it is acknowledged as best practice nationally in the current economic climate.

The Board's Fiscal Year 2017 recommendations essentially provide for a maintenance level budget for higher education universities, colleges, agencies, and programs. Establishment of a "foundation level" for public universities in FY 2017 is recommended to provide better financial stability, allow for efficient planning, and make real gains toward the goal of 60 X 2025. The Board also recommends similar foundation funding for the community college system aligned with the Governor's initial FY 2016 budget recommendation. Additional state investment in the state's Monetary Award Program (MAP) also is recommended to increase college access and completions and lower the achievement gap by race, ethnicity, and economic status.

The Board's Fiscal Year 2017 capital recommendations total approximately \$1.3 billion to address capital needs, including a \$350 million capital renewal allocation. Too many public higher education facilities have exceeded their designed life expectancy and are in desperate need of replacement, repair and maintenance, and updating to meet today's safety, health and technological standards. Without a state capital program since 2010, many institutions have relied on student user fees and other income funds to augment the lack of state funding for basic maintenance and repair projects. Inevitably these fees drive up the cost of a public college education for students.

Illinois' master plan for education and economic development, the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*, is the guide used in developing the budget recommendations. This is the strategic ten-year plan for Illinois higher education adopted in December, 2008, by education, business, and political stakeholders. The plan includes Illinois' commitment that 60 percent of Illinoisans have a quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025. It has been estimated that if Illinois were at the 60% goal (now it is 43%) it would provide nearly \$1 billion more annually to Illinois tax revenues and eliminate the "skills gaps" currently plaguing Illinois' economy. Recent studies have shown a shortage of college educated workers with an especially large projected shortage in Illinoisans with a bachelor's degree. A college degree means higher individual wages and family security in Illinois than in many states given the rising talent demands of our workforce.

Recently, for the first time since the *Illinois Public Agenda* was adopted, Illinois is falling off pace for attaining the 60 x 2025 goal. To get back on track Illinois must reduce gaps in college attainment for low income and students of color, increase adult college completion aligned with workforce needs, and improve college affordability in Illinois for middle and low income families. Higher education's diminished state funding trends are taking their toll on progress. If Illinois does not establish foundation funding level, with predictable future year estimates to achieve its higher education goals, the state will be undercutting any effort to grow our way out of the current economic crisis.

The Board believes that improved state investment must be accompanied by system commitments to improving performance, containing costs, and improving student success outcomes. Several initiatives are underway to make our higher education system more effective and efficient which, in turn, gives decision-makers greater confidence that state investment is being optimized in providing an affordable quality postsecondary education to Illinois citizens. The Board plans to release a report on the comparative cost of Illinois higher education, the drivers of those costs, and recommendations for making the system more affordable to students for use during the budget development for next fiscal year. The Board commits its cooperation and assistance working with executive and legislative education leaders, state agencies, business and industry, and other educational partners and students on these efforts in 2016.

While the state of Illinois is facing daunting challenges we all have an opportunity to reassess priorities that will strengthen human capital infrastructure through the enhanced development of our public higher education system for the good of all Illinois' citizens, students, employers, and taxpayers.

60 x 2025

IBHE has issued the [Fall 2015 Enrollment Report](#), providing a "snapshot" of Illinois higher education enrollments on the census date, of the fall term. The preliminary figures show 800,000 students at 204 degree-granting institutions. Full-time equivalent enrollments totaled just under 600,000. Undergraduate enrollment declined slightly overall, with graduate enrollment holding steady. For more information, click [here](#).



Fall Enrollments by Sector

Sector	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
Public University	143,614	130,844	49,371	41,820
Community College	317,192	184,437	-	-
Private Not-for-Profit	131,620	126,210	82,601	62,287
Private For-Profit	52,654	34,885	12,183	6,362
Out-of-State	7,672	5,041	3,346	2,205
Total	652,752	481,417	147,501	112,674

Source: IBHE Data Points, 2015

Governors State University is being honored by **University Business** magazine in its Winter 2015 Models of Excellence edition for its **Dual Degree Program (DDP)**, a partnership with 17 Chicago-area community college partners, including the City Colleges of Chicago, which creates a seamless and structured pathway for community college students to complete both their associate and bachelor's degrees. *University Business* senior editor **Tim Goral** said the GSU program stands out for its unique ability to guide students to degree completion. "This is a strong pathway program that truly links a community college to a university. Governors State University's Dual Degree Program recognizes that the transition from a community college to a university is not instinctual for students, and provides appropriate resources to ensure a smooth crossover."

Those resources include sending advisers – not recruiters – into the community colleges to help students there plan for the transition to a four-year school whether they plan to attend GSU or another four-year school. In addition to collecting and analyzing enrollment, retention and graduation data, GSU regularly conducts focus groups with its DDP students to solicit their feedback on how to improve the program. **GSU President Elaine P. Maimon** said universities must do more to help make sure community college students remain on track to graduate. "Universities have not done anything to inspire students to have a coherent experience at the community colleges," she said. "We at the universities have a responsibility to partner with the community colleges to make sure the students have the best possible chance of having a coherent, quality experience throughout their four years."

IBHE Board & Staff News

This month, **William E. Feurer** is retiring as IBHE legal officer after 42 years of service. The Board took the opportunity to congratulate him upon his retirement and thank him for his service at its December 1 meeting. IBHE Chair **Lindsay Anderson** presented Feurer with a proclamation recognizing his contributions to the Board, stating that the Board has, "benefit[ed] from his discerning observations and recommendations to ensure that their higher education policy decisions were not only legal, but also practical and constructive." In recognition of Feurer's service, Anderson and the Board also sponsored a day of programming on NPR station WUIS 91.9.



L to R: IBHE Executive Director James Applegate, IBHE Board Chair Lindsay Anderson, and retiring IBHE Legal Officer Bill Feurer.

Senator Pat McGuire, Senate Higher Education Committee Chair, and **Representative Kelly Burke**, House Higher Education Committee Chair, presented a legislative [resolution](#) on the occasion of his retirement.

Bill Feurer's IBHE service by the numbers:

- 42 years as IBHE legal office
- 12 Executive Directors
- 10 Board Chairs
- Nearly 100 Board members
- Innumerable legal opinions, policy recommendations, stories, and jokes.

The **Danville Commercial-News** recently published [a Letter to the Editor](#) by IBHE Board member **Alice Marie Jacobs**, president of **Danville Area Community College (DACC)**. Jacobs addressed the importance of adult education and highlighted a few success stories at DACC: a homeless veteran turned honors student and two high school dropouts who earned their degrees and became DACC senior administrators.

IBHE's Eric Lichtenberger, Deputy Director for Information Management & Research, has recently been appointed to the **Midwestern Higher Education Compact's** (MHEC) Review Panel for State Policy and Performance Indicators. The panel will review publications that utilize state-level policy and performance metrics. MHEC, one of four statutorily-created interstate compacts, was founded in 1991 and is a nonprofit regional organization serving Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The purpose of MHEC's research program is to inform policy, programs, and practices aligned with the Compact's strategic priorities: expanding postsecondary opportunity and success; promoting innovative approaches to improve institutional and system productivity; improving affordability; and enhancing connectivity between higher education and the workplace.

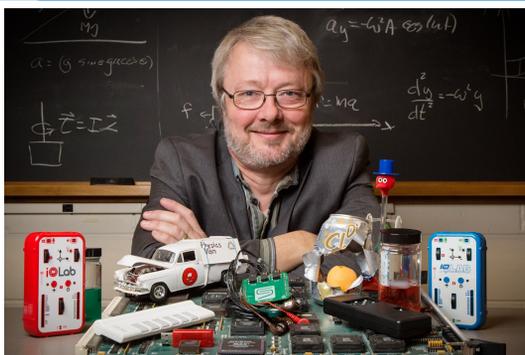
Other News

New Report Ranks Illinois High on Principal Preparation Policies

Illinois' ongoing efforts to strengthen the state's principal preparation program were recognized in a national study from the **University Council for Educational Administration**. The report shows that Illinois is one of only two states that has adopted all five high-leverage policies, which the report links to improved preparedness of educational leaders. These policy areas are explicit selection process, university-district partnership, clinically rich internship, program oversight, and experience requirements. This program is a collaboration of the **Illinois State Board of Education** and **IBHE**, along with the Illinois P-20 Council. Read the full report [here](#).

This is not the only national organization that has [referenced Illinois' work](#). Organizations such as the [National Governors Association](#), [National Council for State Legislators](#), and even recently the [Institute for Medicine](#) have recognized as the **only** state to have a principal certificate that spans **Pre-K to Grade 12**.

People in the News



The **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** and the **Council for Advancement and Support of Education** have named [Mats Selen](#) the 2015 Outstanding Doctoral and Research Universities [Professor of the Year](#). Selen, a professor of physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, uses creativity and innovation to engage students in the classroom. He has developed interactive teaching tools like the [i>clicker](#) student response

and co-wrote the [smartPhysics](#) multimedia curriculum. Selen also promotes science education outreach, developing a **"Physics Made Easy"** training class for elementary education majors and the **Physics Van**, a traveling science show for elementary students, and its [Ask the Van](#) web component.

For the second consecutive year, Northern Illinois University is home to the [Illinois Professor of the Year](#). [Brianno Coller](#), a [Presidential Teaching Professor](#) in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, is the 2015 honoree named by the **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** and the **Council for Advancement and Support of Education**.





Mary-Rita Moore was appointed president of [Triton College](#) in November after serving as interim president since January of 2015. Moore came to Triton in 1983, working at the front line of the institution with their registration needs at the Welcome Desk and serving as Academic Advisor. She was associate dean of Student Services, and later, the dean of Enrollment Services. In 2012, she was appointed to the position of associate vice president of Strategic Planning, where she led the development of Triton's seven-year strategic plan and also played a critical role in the Higher Learning Commission 2013 reaffirmation visit. Moore is a graduate of Dominican University, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration.



and Best Wishes for a Wonderful New Year!

IBHE

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