

Applegate's Update

It's Time to End the Roller Coaster Ride

Illinois higher education begins 2016 still without a budget or any state support. If this impasse drags beyond January 31 it will begin to negatively impact enrollment, degree completion, course offerings, and student/faculty/staff retention for the NEXT academic year as we move into planning and registration for summer and fall 2016. Already the impasse has had devastating effects, especially on our most vulnerable students.

- 125,000 low income MAP students future have been put at risk. I have heard personally from them of the fear and anxiety they have experienced. Even though our institutions have struggled valiantly to protect them, these students know that at some point they may be forced to drop out if state funds are not forthcoming. [A recent institutional survey by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) indicates that an increasing number of schools (especially two-year and private colleges) are unable to continue support for MAP students this coming spring semester. Even for those who are, it is unclear whether those students will be forced to pay back funds if the MAP budget is not approved. If they are charged for these funds it will mean the end of college opportunity for most of these students. The years of hard work that went into getting these students to college despite their many life obstacles are about to be thrown away along with their futures.
- Academic programs are being discontinued or slashed to the bone including those most important to many of our most vulnerable students (e.g., adult education programs have been discontinued at many community colleges).
- Institutions are experiencing the uncertainty caused by the real possibility that their most talented faculty and staff, many of whom bring millions of dollars in external grant support to our state, are being recruited elsewhere.
- An industry that provides billions of dollars of economic activity to Illinois and supports tens of thousands of jobs is being put at risk (more than 100,000 jobs and \$30 billion in economic activity in the public sector alone). If any other industry of this size were at risk in Illinois we would expect strong state efforts to support its continued health.
- Institutions' debt ratings have been downgraded by national rating agencies resulting in higher costs for borrowing and negatively impacting college affordability in Illinois.

If there is a grey lining to this dark budget cloud, it is increasing support for Illinois to institute a multi-year budgeting framework for higher education that reinstates some stability, ability to plan, and increased efficiency and effectiveness in the system. Legislators, thoughtful policy experts, and media editorials have supported getting off the roller coaster of up and down annual budgeting (largely down, given a \$1.2 billion inflation adjusted reduction in state higher education support since 2000).

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), as part of its 2017 budget request for higher education, has explicitly called for the creation of an [Illinois Higher Education Compact](#). Based on months of conversations with higher education leadership across Illinois, [IBHE's budget recommendation](#) calls for establishment of a foundation level of funding for higher education in FY 2017 in the context of a three year Compact

between state leaders and the system. In this Compact the state publically commits to stable and robust funding over that period in exchange for a commitment from the higher education system to expand current efforts to become more efficient and effective in the use of its funding and to demonstrate improvement in outcomes using agreed upon metrics.

Without such a Compact, colleges are unable to engage in longer term planning and are forced to set tuitions that must be locked in for multiple years with no idea about levels of state support. No business could survive in such a chaotic environment. Yet college and university administrators are faced with surviving under these uncertain conditions. IBHE has already done the ground work to support the launch of the Compact discussion. It has completed a comparative analysis of the cost of Illinois higher education and a 10 year trend spending analysis identifying the large cost drivers for the system. The latter will be the focus of efficiency and effectiveness innovations that can contain costs. The Compact idea has the support of Illinois higher education leadership and IBHE's initial conversation with Executive and Legislative branch leadership have also been positive.

It is time to end the roller coaster ride and establish a multi-year funding plan that will enable Illinois to reach its goal to have 60 percent of its workforce with a quality college credential by 2025. Most recent IBHE data show that for the first time we have fallen off track to reach that goal. Given that two-thirds of all new and replacement jobs in Illinois going forward will require a college credential, that keeping and attracting good jobs requires an educated workforce, and that reaching that goal will provide nearly a billion dollars in increased tax revenue as per capita income rises, it is not an exaggeration to say that Illinois' economic future depends on establishing a saner approach to higher education funding that the Compact is designed to create.

60 x 2025

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has successfully pilot tested and has officially moved the **Illinois Higher Education Information System (IHEIS)** into production. As the higher education data component of the Illinois Longitudinal Data System, IHEIS was developed as part of a partnership between IBHE and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) with some flow-through funding coming from the Illinois State Board of Education. Universities and colleges will begin uploading enrollment and completion data to the system during the upcoming spring semester. IHEIS is multi-purpose and will reduce the reporting burdens placed upon the colleges and universities, while providing important information that could be used for research and planning purposes.

Increasing Affordability



"The **Illinois Student Assistance Commission's** best advice to students – new, returning and adults – is don't delay: file your FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1," says **Eric Zarnikow**, ISAC Executive Director in a **State Journal-Register** op-ed. "A degree or high quality credential can increase your earning power; indeed, a bachelor's degree can actually double it. The state budget delay does limit what agencies and colleges can offer right now in terms of aid, but colleges, universities and agencies across the state are working to assist you so that the situation doesn't control your destiny. You can take the first step in giving yourself options by filing the FAFSA this January." [Click here](#) to read the full article.

[Concordia University Chicago and Triton College](#)
[have signed an articulation agreement for the](#)
[Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Business](#)
[Administration.](#)

Under the agreement, students from Triton College who successfully follow the course of study will be able to transfer their credits at face value, and complete their bachelor's degree in the College of Business at Concordia-Chicago. Students enrolled in the partnership program will complete an associate degree in either accounting and business administration, business management, or accounting and finance at Triton College in River Grove, IL. The final two years of study will be completed at Concordia University Chicago. The program has been designed so that it is possible to earn both an associate and bachelor's degree within four years.



L to R: Triton College President Mary-Rita Moore and Concordia University Chicago President Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard

**engineering
pathways**

High school seniors planning to attend **Moraine Valley Community College** are eligible for guaranteed admission to the College of Engineering at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** through [a new Engineering Pathways partnership.](#) Incoming freshmen must be starting at Moraine Valley in the 2016-17

academic year. The partnership provides an opportunity for students with a genuine interest in any area of the engineering field to earn a degree from a top-ranked program. Students who are accepted into the program must be full-time and are required to complete a pre-determined set of courses within three years while maintaining a 3.3 grade point average at Moraine Valley. Completing the first two years of the engineering curriculum at Moraine Valley will save a student an estimated \$17,000 a year in tuition alone (based on 2014-15 tuition and fees). Substantially higher savings are expected when room and board costs are factored in. The Moraine Valley Foundation also offers numerous scholarships to its students.

"We have worked with the College of Engineering at UIUC to bring world-class engineering education to our district's students at an affordable cost," said **Panos Hadjimitsos**, Assistant Dean of Science, Business and Computer Technology at Moraine Valley. "All of the classes students are required to take at Moraine Valley are taught by our expert faculty, and we will provide superior support services to ensure the success of qualified participants, including dual advising." Advisors from both Moraine Valley and the University of Illinois will jointly advise students throughout the program to ensure the requirements are being met before they transfer.

People in the News



The **McHenry County College** Board of Trustees has announced the approval of an agreement with [Dr. Clinton E. Gabbard](#) to serve as the College's eighth president. Dr. Gabbard is scheduled to begin his role as MCC president on Monday, January 11. Dr. Gabbard's most recent role was the Vice President of Student Services at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor, MI. Previous roles include Vice President of Student Services for Walla Walla Community College, Director of Counseling and Psych Services at Purdue University, and Psychologist and Adjunct Assistant Professor at University of Notre Dame. He also co-founded TrestleTree Inc., a private sector

behavioral health service for employers. He earned his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology and a Master of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology from University of Notre Dame, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Evangel College.

IBHE News

IBHE recently launched an exhibition of student art. The exhibition was open to all higher education students in Illinois and will be on display until the end of 2016 at the



IBHE office in Springfield. From over 100 entries, staff chose 64 pieces from 42 artists. Special thanks to Board Secretary **Cindy Deitsch** and Site Manager **Charlie Bowden** for all their hard work for the exhibit.

Throughout 2016 the IBHE Bulletin will feature the student artwork from the exhibit.

L to R: Kendra Stenger; Cindy Deitsch; Kerra Taylor; and James Applegate. Stenger is pictured with "Mammikuni" and Taylor with "Ready to Let Go." Both are fine art graduate students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Kendra Stenger, Southern Illinois University Carbondale



The Rhythm of the Lemon Tree



Sound Growth



Mammikuni

Kerra Taylor, Southern Illinois University Carbondale



In Search of



Attached



Repressed



Ready to Let Go



Detached



IBHE

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