

## Applegate's Update

### Miles to Go

The sigh of relief was heard around the state with the bipartisan passage of bridge funding to December 2016 last week. For higher education it will mean our colleges can continue to operate into the fall of 2016 and long overdue bills can begin to be paid. However, the higher education system is still in a state of uncertainty and flux as colleges try to plan for the next academic year. Understanding that this was only intended as stop gap funding, it is still important to note that the current level of approved funding remains far below what is necessary to sustain and grow a quality system even for another academic year. Assume for a moment that public higher education had received stable funding for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 equivalent to 2015 even after that budget was cut late in 2015. For the two-year period that would have provided nearly \$4 billion to teach more than 461,000 students (more than 90% of whom are Illinoisans; financial aid to students who need it to attend; and the ability to hire and retain good faculty across the state. To date the two stop gap measures have provided less than half of that amount to the colleges which makes revisiting the budget issues this year to create a full budget essential. We need funding to ramp up to enroll tens of thousands more students to meet our workforce needs. Two-thirds of all new and replacement jobs in Illinois will require a college credential going forward (54% of all advertised jobs in 2014-15 actually required a B.A.).

Thankfully, state leaders have said that this is not the end of budget work. There is hope that we will see a return to what President Killeen at the U of I called "normalcy" after the November elections. Let us hope so. As Representative Bob Pritchard, a member of the Higher Education Legislative Caucus noted, "Make no mistake this partial budget is only a bridge to January; for the second fiscal year Illinois has failed to adopt a full-year budget and is the only state since the Great Depression to fail twice in this constitutional duty."

As I have noted here and across Illinois, our state needs to pursue a "both/and" strategy for higher education: both robust and stable state support and improved performance by the higher education system. We have [a good system that compares favorably nationally](#) to the rest of the country. However, there is much work to do to improve college affordability, reduce college success gaps for low income and underrepresented students, and increase college opportunity for adult learners already in the workforce (22 percent of whom have some college credits but no degree to show for it). These are the priorities IBHE established as its focus more than two years ago. Much good work is underway. Going forward, as budgets stabilize, we must focus on strategies that provide dramatic increases in college access and success especially in degree pathways most aligned with the state's needs.

During this crisis, IBHE has pushed ahead with the work of the [Commission on the Future of the Workforce](#) and secured private funding to support implementation of its recommendations to increase degree production aligned with regional workforce needs. It is on track to complete the work of the [Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force](#) to support accelerated college completion by our growing veteran population. New agreements have been forged to better connect higher education and workforce data to allow for better tracking of college graduates' success in the

workforce and improved career outcomes for graduates. Comprehensive analyses have been done to identify factors impacting college affordability in Illinois in anticipation of a state initiative to improve affordability for middle and low income families.

Much of this is being done to set the stage for a rapid return to the path to progress once a budget is passed. IBHE has recommended that government and higher education leaders use that moment to begin development of a multi-year "[Illinois Higher Education Compact](#)." The Compact would include a commitment from state leaders to maintain robust stable funding for higher education over at least a three year period in exchange for higher education's commitment to embrace and show progress on clear metrics measuring improved efficiency, effectiveness, and student outcomes. The very act of launching this compact will allow for longer term strategic planning necessary for improved performance. This is the vision of a truly successful Illinois: step one – a normal budget; step two – a multiyear Compact; and step three – an educated workforce to support economic growth and an improved quality of life in the state.

## IBHE News



**Governor Bruce Rauner** visited with employees at **IBHE** in Springfield Tuesday, June 28, to discuss the work they have done to increase opportunities for Illinois students. "The employees at IBHE are instrumental in providing our students with a world-class education while overseeing grants and program review. Their focus on expanding opportunity and access to quality education across Illinois is inspiring," Governor Rauner said. "We must ensure their good work continues and our higher education proposal does just that."

*(L to R: IBHE Deputy Director of Fiscal Affairs and Budgeting Kevin Schoeben, IBHE Executive Director James Applegate, and Governor Bruce Rauner)*

## 60 x 2025

This week **IBHE** Executive Director **Jim Applegate** attended the **Education Commission of the State's** (ECS) National Forum on Education Policy in Washington, DC. As the head of IBHE, Dr. Applegate serves as an Illinois Commissioner and steering committee member for ECS, a nonpartisan advisory group on state policy made up of governors, legislative and education leaders from the 50 states. Dr. Applegate was invited to present on better aligning the federal and states roles in higher education to support equity and economic competitiveness. He shared the stage with the head of the **National Governors Association** and the **Pew Charitable Trusts**. [Pew recently released a comprehensive analysis](#) of state and federal funding for higher education showing that in a radical change over the last decade the federal government is now a larger funder of higher education than the states.

## People in the News



During a town hall meeting with the University Community on July 6, **Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) President Sharon Hahs** announced her plans to retire on September 30 after nearly a decade at the helm. Having served in public higher education for 42 years, Hahs delayed her retirement plans due to the state budget crisis. Hahs indicated that with the passage of the stopgap budget, the University is stable, resilient, and has strong leadership in place for the next phase of NEIU's Strategic Plan; this is a good time for a transition.

"It has been deeply gratifying to lead the University in these challenging times," she said. "My entire career in public higher education prepared me for this role; it has been my honor and joy to work with committed and talented faculty and staff, serving bright and hard-working students, helping them to meet their professional and personal goals. I am also grateful for the enduring commitment of alumni and friends."

Hahs will recommend to the Board of Trustees that **Provost Richard Helldobler** serve as Interim President, postponing a national search for president until Illinois has at least one full regular budget cycle. The Board is expected to hold a special meeting to address this in the next two or three weeks.

The **Richland Community College** Board of Trustees announced it has selected [Cristobal "Cris" Valdez](#) to be the college's next president. He replaces **Gayle Saunders**, who retired in February after 15 years in the position. Valdez, who is currently president of Central Wyoming College and previously was president of Edison Community College in Ohio, is expected to start at Richland on August 1. Valdez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in social work at the University of Montana. He earned a master of social work at Eastern Washington University and completed an Ed.D in Community College Leadership at Oregon State University.



Congratulations to the **Illinois Community College Trustees Association's** new officers for 2016-17:

- President **Linda Liddell** of McHenry County College
- Vice President **Jim Endress** of Highland Community College
- Secretary **Kathy Spears** of Kishwaukee College
- Treasurer **Fritz Larsen** of Black Hawk College
- Immediate past president **Andrew Bollman** of Sauk Valley Community College



(L to R: Jim Endress, Andrew Bollman, Linda Liddell, Kathy Spears. Not pictured: Fritz Larsen)

## Upcoming Events



Tinley Park Convention Center • July 21, 2016 – 8 am - 4:30 pm

**College Changes Everything** is pleased to announce the 2016 conference keynote speakers. **John M. Burnett** serves as President and CEO of the **Community Education Coalition (CEC)**, a nationally recognized not-for-profit organization committed to the development of an aligned, high quality community and regional learning system supporting learners of all ages. **Jack Hess** serves as Executive Director of the **Institute for Coalition Building**. The Institute serves communities across the country, nurturing leaders collectively to solve their grand challenges. Reaching Illinois' 60 x 2025 goal is going to take cross-sector collaboration and Burnett and Hess will share how the city of Columbus, Indiana, collectively addressed complex social problems and produced meaningful outcomes.

## IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Liliana Gonzalez  
South Suburban College



Ceiling

Emami Kimia  
Southern Illinois University



Untitled



Untitled

## Student Laureates

In each issue of *The Bulletin*, we will feature student laureates recognized by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Rock Valley Community College



**Matilyn Bindl**  
Belvidere, IL

*Program: Associate's Degree*

Rockford University



**Angela Martinez**  
Rockford, IL

*Major: Biology  
Minor: Chemistry*

Roosevelt University



**Lacy Reyna**  
Winterset, IA

*Major: Psychology and Biology  
Minor: Chemistry*

## In Case You Missed It

A few articles and reports worth the read:

[QC Online](#): WIU President tells NAACP lack of state budget impacting higher education, June 25, 2016.

[Chicago Tribune](#): Workers with college degrees now outnumber those with high school diplomas, study finds, July 1, 2016.

[The Daily Herald](#): ECC wins national award, July 1, 2016.

[Bloomington Pantagraph](#): Budget deal doesn't deliver stability for higher ed, July 2, 2016.

[Southern Illinois University](#): SIU will cover MAP grants for students this fall, July 5, 2016.

[Washington Post](#): Illinois state universities remain on shaky footing, Moody's says, July 5, 2016.

[WUIS 91.9-NPR Illinois](#): MAP grant uncertainty leads some students to change plans, July 6, 2016.

[Chicago Sun-Times](#): Editorial: Put higher education on strong path to future, July 6, 2016.

# IBHE

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