Looking to the Future while Acknowledging the Present

As we draw closer to discussion of the FY18 (July 2017-June 2018) state budget for higher education it is important to clearly describe where the state's higher education funding levels are in October 2016 to ground that discussion. The simple facts are these, assuming, as the IBHE did in its last budget request, that we take the last full annual budget for higher education in FY15 as the foundation level needed for meeting the needs of Illinois’ college students.

- In FY16 (July 2015-June 2016), the funding for the system consisted of a stop gap budget passed in April 2016 providing less than 1/3 of the 2015 general funds budget to universities and community colleges. Half of the state need based aid funding for FY16 was provided for the Monetary Award Program (MAP).
- For FY17, a second stop gap funding bill was passed providing 54% of the overall public university funding from general funds, 42% of community college funding, and paying for MAP claims in the spring semester of 2016.
- In sum, looking across the last year and this one (FY16 and FY17) the combined general funds shortfall for Illinois public university funding is $1.4 billion (to remedy a 59% cut to date). For the community colleges' operating and equalization funding the two year shortfall is more than $333 million (66% below the FY15 level). MAP funding was provided for the claims made in 2015-16 academic year but there is currently no funding for this year’s MAP eligible students.

Of course, everyone is hopeful that additional funding or an annual budget will be provided in FY17 to address the shortfalls that have accumulated over the last two years. IBHE has recommended that these conversations going forward be framed around the idea of a multi-year compact. The compact would involve commitments from the state for stability and predictability in funding over a multi-year period with commitments from the higher education system to improve its performance and better serve students. This strategy seems all the more logical given the developments over the last two years. Predictable funding allowing for longer term planning is needed if we are to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our work to serve students. It will also provide assurance to students and their families across the state that our colleges and their programs will be there for them in the longer term and help mitigate out-migration of talent to colleges in states with greater stability. With adequate funding, this also will encourage Illinoisians who are deciding whether to go to college at all to make a more informed decision for their futures.

Recent national analyses have shown that in the coming years 70 percent of Illinois’ new and replacement jobs will require a college credential. Building trust in the higher education system will insure Illinois can meet these workforce needs and become the prosperous state its citizens deserve.

In a final good news note, on October 27, 2016 Illinois will hold Governor Rauner’s First Annual Public University Trustees Conference organized by the IBHE in partnership with the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). We are very pleased with the expected attendance from all nine public universities’ boards of trustees. During the day trustees will discuss how best to conduct their important work for Illinois public universities, the staff and students, and the state. Topics include (a) characteristics of effective 21st century boards; (b) trustee’s roles in supporting a college completion agenda that expands opportunity for all students; and (c) the role of trustees in advocacy and building partnerships and other topics. We hope to follow up this first conference with other opportunities for trustees that they identify for us as important to their work.
The fall 2016 enrollment for Illinois’ twelve public universities, using full time equivalent enrollment (FTE), totals 169,569. This represents a -2% difference from academic year 2015 fall enrollment. Overall, the fall undergraduate FTE at public universities declined 2% when compared to 2015; while graduate enrollment at public universities increased slightly from fall 2015. Click here for the full IBHE DataPoint.

### Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

The Illinois Board of Higher Education held the Illinois Improving Teacher Quality Capstone Symposium for the FY16 No Child Left Behind – Improving Teacher Quality grant recipients on September 21 & 22 at Illinois State University.

Over the two-day meeting, the six projects presented a draft of the case study they will submit for consideration in an upcoming special issue of Planning and Changing published by Illinois State University.

Members of nine Action Research Teams consisting of teachers and administrators funded in FY15 also presented their findings from the research conducted within their schools that focused on student learning and increased outcomes.

### Increasing Affordability

MAP Advocacy Student Leader Summit
October 29, 2016 | Loyola University Chicago

Loyola University is hosting a summit advocating for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and its student recipients. The summit is open to Illinois student leaders as well as college and university staff and faculty. Participants will learn how to advocate MAP to legislators, be able to coordinate their institution’s efforts with others, and network.

The summit will be at Kasheer Hall on the Loyola University Chicago Water Tower Campus, 25 East Peason, Chicago. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 9:00 am with the summit running from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. Click here to register.
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Pharmacy’s Chris Herndon, associate professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice, has been named Pharmacist of the Year by the Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA). Pharmacist of the Year is the IPhA’s oldest continuing honor, initially presented in 1950. It recognizes an Illinois pharmacist who has made outstanding contributions to pharmacy practice, the profession and the IPhA.

“Dr. Herndon is truly deserving of this award,” said Gireesh Gupchup, dean of the SIUE School of Pharmacy. “His pioneering work in the area of pain management, opioid addiction education and suicide prevention are extremely important. It is an honor to have a colleague of his caliber on our faculty.”

Parkland College Trustee Gregory J. Knott was recently elected to serve on the board of directors for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). This will be Knott’s second three-year term on the board. A Parkland College alum with an AAS in Agri-Marketing, Knott also has a BS in Agri-Business from Illinois State University and an MBA from the University of Illinois Springfield. He has served as a Parkland trustee since April 2011.

ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. Located in Washington, D.C., ACCT is a major voice of community college trustees to the presidential administration, U.S. Congress, the Departments of Education and Labor and more. ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown praised Knott’s service to the board. “His contributions to the board and to the ACCT Finance and Audit Committee since 2013 have demonstrated his commitment not only to Parkland College, but to community colleges and their students nationwide,” Brown said.

IBHE’s Annual Student Art Exhibit: Call for Artists

IBHE is accepting submissions to its second annual long-term student art exhibition. This exhibition is open to all students at Illinois colleges and universities, regardless of program of study. Artwork will be selected by a committee of IBHE employees and will reside on loan to IBHE for one year. Click here for a Call for Artists with specifications and conditions. Please note that, due to display concerns, only wall art will be considered. Submissions are due November 1, 2016; selected works will be displayed at IBHE from January to December 2016.

Last year’s exhibit featured 64 works of art from 17 Illinois colleges and universities. The exhibit was enjoyed by staff and hundreds of visitors, including Governor Bruce Rauner, legislators, and members of the media.

(L, top to bottom: Portrait of an Indian Boy by Elisabeth Ann White, Principia College; She Waits by Katherine Clayton, Lincoln Christian University; and the Rhythm of the Lemon Tree by Kendra Stenger, Southern Illinois University Carbondale. R: detail of Tree Bark 9 by Kathryn Kane, Oakton Community College)
The 8th Annual College Town Summit, sponsored by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, will be held November 3 at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Speakers will address: reducing alcohol-related incidents and fatalities, evidence-based data and techniques for counseling, prevention, and disciplinary measures, social norming campaigns to change student perceptions and behavior of substance abuse; students’ point of view and experience regarding alcohol consumption; alcohol as a weapon, bystander intervention, and victim impact; the intersection of substance abuse and mental health; and law enforcement’s role in intervention and prevention. Click here to register.

In Case You Missed It

A few articles and reports worth the read:

The Southern Illinoisan: Licensed to work: Former inmate granted cosmetology license as he exits Vienna prison doors, October 5, 2016.

Ottawa Times: Bachelor's degree in nursing could come to IVCC, October 15, 2016.

