Protecting Our Students and Improving Their Success

Over the last week there has been a very disturbing rise in hateful acts directed at certain groups on college campuses and increased anxiety among students from those targeted groups. From New York to California and many states in between hateful graffiti and threatening emails have been posted. Attacks on Muslim students on campus have been reported. In Illinois we have received reports of dramatic increases to national and Illinois hotlines from students feeling stressed about their future status, especially undocumented students. In Illinois IBHE and our institutional leaders have been actively working to provide assurances to our students that they are not alone and that we are both behind and in front to protect them. Illinois college presidents have issued clear statements to their campuses and communities that we all remain fully committed to the values of diversity and inclusion embodied in our core mission statements. Illinois needs the talents of ALL its students if it is to succeed as a state. Going forward IBHE wants to be a partner with all of our campuses in developing proactive strategies to preserve our campuses as safe and accepting communities where all of our students resist temptation to succumb to the temptations of division and hate and realize the goals of education to be better citizens.

On the proactive side, IBHE was proud to organize an Illinois state team to join nearly 50 other state teams last week at the national meeting of Complete College America (CCA). As noted in previous updates, Illinois is an active member of the CCA state alliance focused on implementing “game changing” strategies on our campuses that have been proven to reduce if not eliminate gaps for underserved students (low income, first generation, adult and students of color). These innovations also help all students better complete degrees more efficiently and at lower costs. We are grateful to Senator Donne E. Trotter, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee; Representative Kelly Burke, Chair of the House Higher Education Committee; Secretary of Education Beth Purvis; and Brian Durham, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, Illinois Community College Board for joining Malinda Aiello, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs from IBHE, and me to learn from other states’ successes and how to develop strategies to build on our own. Illinois has exciting statewide initiatives focused on redesigning college developmental education to ensure underprepared college students move quickly into credit bearing course work and attain degrees. The state is also advancing important work to create college math pathways that better serve all students and make math less of a barrier to college completion. We now hope to expand the full set of game changer efforts (developmental redesign, clear efficient pathways to degrees and careers that eliminate excess credits and improved on-time completion, better student data and more effective advising) to more institutions in Illinois. SIUC, UIC, and City Colleges have been working with us on this integrated approach for several years with good results and will help us scale up the work to other colleges.

As all in Illinois higher education continue working together, safe and inclusive campus cultures and improved college and career success are goals we can achieve for our students in Illinois.
The Southern Illinois University Technology and Innovation Expo held on Oct. 13, was attended by more than 200 investors, economic development officers, corporate business development professionals, policymakers, and entrepreneurs at Chicago's 1871 incubator to hear speed pitches and interact with 19 top inventors and innovators from SIU’s Carbondale, Edwardsville, and School of Medicine campuses. Highlights from the event included a speech from U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and a video address from Gov. Bruce Rauner.

By partnering with a Coles County-based business, Eastern Illinois University is getting its name spread throughout Illinois and beyond. EIU shares its billing with Rural King, a farm and home company headquartered in Mattoon, on vinyl wrappings covering four of hundreds of trailers that deliver goods to nearly 100 stores in an 11-state area.

“The first time this sort of thing came to my attention was ten or more years ago when a friend who worked there told me that the University of Montana was using tractor-trailers to help market their institution,” said Steve Rich, assistant vice president for advancement at EIU. “I remember thinking then what a great idea it was – a moving billboard!”

The newly wrapped trailers were ready in late September and have already spent several weeks on the road. One of the four trailers remains in Illinois at all times. The remaining three travel the roads throughout seven states of Rural King’s 11-state area, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Florida, West Virginia and Virginia.

Eastern already markets itself in Illinois’ bordering states – Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin – allowing those students to pay the same tuition rate as in-state students.

Increasing Affordability

The FY 2016 Revenue and Expenditure Report is now available on the IBHE website. This reports on Illinois’ twelve public universities revenues and expenditures.

Highlights of Report include:

- Illinois public universities reported total revenues from all sources (including state appropriated, income funds, and non-appropriated sources) of $6.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2016.
- For state appropriated funds, only $356 million in appropriations were included in the first stop gap bill enacted in April, 2016. This reflects nearly 70% less than the final appropriation level for Fiscal Year 2015, or approximately $850 million. While the second stop gap bill adopted in late June 2016 provided $645 million in state appropriations, it is accounted for as revenues in Fiscal Year 2017.
- University income fund (tuition revenue) increased by $88 million, or 5% to $1.9 billion.
- Total expenditures from state appropriated and university income funds dropped by $53.3 million, or 5% to $2.9 billion.
- Total overall expenditures for Fiscal Year 2016 were approximately $7.0 billion in which university income funds and other non-appropriated funds made up the difference of the shortfall of state funding.
Chicago State University’s pharmacy program continues the work of excellence as Dr. Sneha Baxi Srivastava was named Educator of the Year at the Illinois Pharmacy Association Annual Conference. She is an 8th year professor in the College of Pharmacy at CSU and graduated with her Doctorate of Pharmacy from Rutgers University. The CSU Pharmacy program is considered by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy as having the 9th highest underrepresented minority student enrollment in the country. The program is accredited by the American by the Accreditation Council of Pharmacy Education (ACPE).

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) named Governors State University Professor Daniel Nearing as the inaugural "Filmmaker in Residence" at the Chicago Film Office. Nearing was selected for both his filmmaking experience and his commitment to sharing Chicago stories through independent film. As part of the year-long residency, Nearing will film his project Sister Carrie — the third and final installment of a Chicago trilogy directed by Nearing — an adaptation of the landmark feminist Chicago novel of the same name. In the same week, Nearing was also named to Newcity’s biennial list of the top 50 filmmakers working in the Chicago area.

Dr. Laurie M. Joyner, has been appointed the 20th president of Saint Xavier University and will begin her presidency on January 1, 2017. Dr. Joyner brings extensive leadership experience to the University, having served as president of Wittenberg University and in multiple vice presidential and decanal roles at Rollins College. Prior to Rollins, Dr. Joyner served on the faculty and held administrative positions of increasing responsibility at Loyola University New Orleans. She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Loyola University, and master’s and doctoral degrees in sociology from Tulane University.

“I am deeply honored to serve as the next president of Saint Xavier University,” said Dr. Joyner. “I am looking forward to working with such an extraordinary learning community to build upon the university’s Mercy heritage and impressive 170-year history of providing high quality, person-centered education in Chicago.”

“As we look to the future, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of President Christine Wiseman, who has served the University for nearly seven years, bringing genuine concern for student success to the forefront of our institutions efforts,” said Timothy Trahey, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. President Wiseman currently serves on the Illinois Board of Higher Education, representing Illinois’ private colleges and universities.

Governor Bruce Rauner has announced the 2016 outstanding college students who are honored by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. The Academy were recognized during the annual Student Laureate Convocation, November 12 at the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

"President Lincoln’s legacy is a reminder of the power of public service and civic engagement here in Illinois and across the country," said Governor Rauner. "The students chosen to receive this honor have exemplified the principles and ideals of the greatest Illinoisan through their hard work and dedication to their schools and communities."
The Lincoln Academy’s Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Awards are presented for excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities to seniors from each of the state’s four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities, and one student from the community colleges in Illinois. At the Student Laureate Convocation, each student will receive a Student Laureate Medallion, along with a $1,000 educational grant and a certificate of achievement. This is the 42nd year Lincoln Academy has celebrated students’ excellence in Illinois.

As is tradition, the IBHE Bulletin will feature the Student Laureates in upcoming issues.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) announced the recipients of its annual Association Awards for community college trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff members during the ACCT Awards Gala on October 7 in New Orleans, LA.

ACCT’s Association Awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by trustees, equity programs, chief executive officers, faculty members, and professional board staff members. Those honored at the national level received regional-level recognition in their respective categories earlier in the year. The College of Lake County received the Charles Kennedy Equity Award for the Central region while Highland Community College Trustee Diane Gallagher received the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award for the Central Region.

**Upcoming Events**

**COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING®**

Save the Date – Thursday, July 20, 2017

Please mark your calendars to attend the seventh annual College Changes Everything® (CCE) Conference – the state’s premier college access and success event. This one day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with increasing college access and college completion for students in support of the state’s Goal 2025 – to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025. The conference will take place at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois.
A few articles and reports worth the read:

**Inside Higher Ed**: Metrics for money, November 18, 2016.

**Pantagraph**: ISU students lobby lawmakers for MAP funding, November 17, 2016.

**WUIS 91.9/NPR Illinois**: Education desk: Higher ed employees may face furloughs, November 14, 2016.


**Chicago Tribune**: U of I backs deal that would set benchmarks in exchange for state funding, November 10, 2016.

**Pantagraph**: Trump victory sparks protests at ISU, downtown, November 10, 2016.

**News-Gazette**: Updated: Parkland planning layoffs of some non-tenure faculty, November 4, 2016.