

Applegate's Update

The Last Applegate Update

Let me organize my last Update for the *IBHE Bulletin* in three parts following the grand tradition of Aristotelian logic. First, my thanks to those who have worked so diligently with me over the last three years in the most difficult of circumstances to expand college opportunity and serve students of all ages in our higher education system. The dedicated, innovative, and hard-working IBHE staff, both long-time veterans and the talented people who joined us during my tenure here, have launched new initiatives to support our priorities to make college affordable, serve more adult learners, and close gaps for underserved students. At the same time they have protected our students and improved our ability to ensure they are successfully launched into careers following graduation. All of this with reduced staff and no raises in most cases for years. My fellow agency heads and their staffs have worked closely with us to more efficiently support college readiness, affordability, transfer, graduation, and career success across the education continuum. Our Presidents and institutional staff, despite layoffs and unprecedented budget cuts, have continued to support our students, especially the most vulnerable and keep the focus on the public good.

And that leads to my second point. Whatever else you may hear, know that Illinois has a high performing higher education system worthy of support and more than capable of making the state a success. As IBHE has pointed out many times [Illinois higher education is far above national averages in most categories of performance](#): third in the nation in the number of community college students transferring and completing four year degrees at universities; fourth in the nation in percentage of full time students completing credentials at our community colleges; far above national averages in college completion at our public and private four year colleges with 87 percent of students who begin college completing a degree in six years. This performance makes it all the more tragic that in the latest data for Illinois high school graduates shows 45 percent who went to four year colleges chose to go out of state. That number will grow if Illinois does not right the budget ship. Even more tragically growing evidence suggests in the midst of all this many students are choosing to not go to college at all. That decision will haunt them for years to come. Why that is true? That brings me to my final point.

Only this week two analyses were done that point to the life changing impact of a college degree in this 21st century society and the path to making that life change for more people: especially those who have most been left out of college opportunity to date. The results reaffirm the importance of Illinois' commitment to meet or exceed its goal to provide 60 percent of its workforce with a quality college credential by 2025. Using Education Policy Institute (EPI) data Christopher Rugaber, economics writer for AP, [showed a record breaking gap in incomes between college and high school only graduates](#)). College graduates, on average, make 56 percent more than high school graduates, the largest gap since EPI began collecting data in 1973. Data from EPI and the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. ["Good Jobs are Back"](#) and ["The Divided Recovery"](#) show college graduates have filled almost all of the millions of good jobs created since the Great Recession and had significant pay gains. The benefits of a college education ripple throughout the lives of graduates. College graduates:

- Have significantly lower unemployment rates: the unemployment rate for college graduates is only 2.5 percent;
- Are more likely to contribute to retirement plans and contribute more to those plans even with similar salary levels to high school graduates: education promotes future planning;

- Are more likely to be married;
- Are less likely to use tobacco and are healthier; and
- Are more likely to vote and volunteer: in the most recent election education level was a more powerful differentiator of voting behavior than at any time since 1980.

Even this sampling of positive outcomes make clear that the path to success lies in expanding college opportunity to people who might not go to college at all . We need a higher education system which sees its mission as being what David Leonhardt, one of the smartest writers on higher education in the country, called "[great working class colleges](#)". Leonhardt notes that one of those, City University of New York "propelled almost six times as many low-income students into the middle class and beyond as all eight Ivy League campuses, plus Duke, M.I.T., Stanford, and the University of Chicago."

The good news is that almost all of Illinois' public and private colleges could expand their focus on this type of social mobility strategy (e.g., Arrupe College, Loyola University's new community college in Chicago). The bad news is that most "working class colleges" are those most dependent on state support. State funding for higher education has decreased dramatically, and especially since 2008. That is true nationally and in Illinois. Not surprisingly the result nationally has been a decrease in low income students attending many public colleges. This trend must be reversed if we are to succeed as a state and a country.

In sum, Illinois has a strong system of higher education with great people which, with robust state support, can focus on expanding college opportunity to those who need it most. That is the most direct path to a vibrant economy and democracy in Illinois and nationally. I wish the best going forward for my colleagues in Illinois and am looking forward in my own work with colleagues around the country to support progress on that path.

60 x 2025

On January 24, [Attorney General Lisa Madigan moved to intervene in a lawsuit](#) to assure that federal recognition of a national accreditor of many of the worst schools in the for-profit industry remains revoked. The **Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)** filed the lawsuit after the Department of Education terminated ACICS's recognition as a national accreditor based on the organization's failure to comply with a host of criteria, including failing to develop and implement student achievement standards that measure students' success in their chosen field "ACICS gave legitimacy to for-profit schools that have left millions of students with useless degrees, astronomical levels of debt and poor job prospects," Madigan said. "ACICS should not be allowed to accredit schools and give students the false impression that a school will credential them for a career."

Among the for-profit schools that ACICS accredited were many Illinois schools, including Everest Colleges, Westwood College and ITT Technical Institute. ACICS continued to accredit these schools even as ample evidence of student harm piled up from multiple state and federal investigations. ACICS's accreditation provided for-profit schools with access to federal student loans, helping fuel the schools' expansive growth across the country and luring students to take out billions of dollars in student loans. ACICS currently accredits 16 schools in Illinois, encompassing 20 campuses across the state.

[Governor Bruce Rauner met with members of Illinois Workforce Innovation Board Apprenticeship Committee](#) on January 18 to discuss the importance of bringing opportunity to every neighborhood in Illinois through apprenticeships and apprenticeship-like programs. The committee's efforts are focused on providing the same training and education services to all students across Illinois as part of a comprehensive cradle-to-career education.

"Improving the quality of education is why I ran for office," said Governor Rauner. "Apprenticeship

programs are so critical to students because they deliver a pathway to good paying jobs and stable careers, especially for those who may not want to go or have access to college. Our Apprenticeship Plus initiative is one of three priority projects, and this committee will help lead the state's efforts to expand apprenticeships in Illinois."

In June 2016, the Illinois Workforce Innovation Board created a standing Apprenticeship Committee to design and oversee implementation of a comprehensive and integrated apprenticeship system for Illinois. The committee's goal is to lead the State's efforts in expanding and transforming apprenticeship in Illinois by building capacity, infrastructure and expert support. Members of the committee include leaders in business industry as well as training providers, local workforce innovation boards, labor, philanthropies, community colleges, college-based organizations, rehabilitation services and employment exchange services.

Student Employment Pathway Program (SEPP) Demonstration Project

The State Universities Civil Service System Office has embarked on a new and innovative Demonstration Project designed to develop and foster partnerships within the higher education community by providing employment opportunities for graduating or recently graduated students in occupational areas related to their particular course of study. This project will allow for public universities and affiliated higher education agencies within the University System to have direct contact and consultation with faculty and academic/placement counselors to employ students and recent graduates from any institution of higher education; Public, Private and/or Community College.

University System employers and the University System Office routinely receive concerns from hiring departments regarding their difficulties in the recruitment and/or retention of highly qualified employees in the Professional (01), Semi-Professional (02), Managerial (03) and Medical Services (12) occupational groups. Therefore, classifications designated for participation in this program will be limited to those contained in these occupational areas. Special emphasis will be placed on hiring staff that are within one semester of graduation or recently graduated from formalized educational and training programs that include a broad knowledge base within the designated occupation. This employment pathway opportunity will provide for a seamless transition from student to full time employee with all of the opportunities and benefits of a Civil Service appointment.

The primary emphasis of this program is to allow public University System employers the opportunity to strategically compete with other private employers who routinely make tentative job offers to graduating students. Employment decisions under this program will be made at any participating University System HR Office. The Designated Employer Representative (DER)/Human Resources Director and staff will provide the conduit for implementing and managing the program, along with input from hiring departments and academic departments within the program of applicant participation. Academic program staff at supporting institutions will also have an opportunity to nominate candidates for inclusion within this program.

The employee will be eligible for all standard benefits associated with University System employment including health insurance, participation in the retirement system, and other standard benefits. The hiring department will have the final selection decision authority, in conjunction with other standard university/agency policies. **This project is designated for a three-year pilot period which began January 1, 2017 and will end on December 31, 2019.**

For more information contact **Cindy Neitzel** at the State Universities Civil Service System, 217-278-3150, Ext. 224 or at cindyn@sucss.illinois.gov.

Increasing Affordability

The **U.S. Department of Education** released the first debt-to-earnings (D/E) rates for career training programs as required by the [Gainful Employment \(GE\) regulations](#). The release of these rates builds on the Department's ongoing efforts to promote college completion and increase accountability in the postsecondary education marketplace by setting standards for career training programs, including programs offered by for-profit institutions, to ensure they are serving students well. The data show that, while many postsecondary programs offer value to students, there are a significant number of career training programs—specifically for-profit programs—that do not provide their graduates with a reasonable return on investment.

The **Chronicle of Higher Education** provided the following link for a full list of programs and how they measured up, [click here](#).

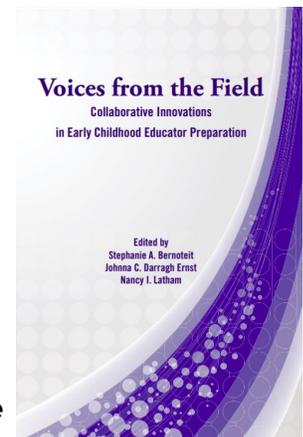
Institutions that ran afoul of the rule fit into two categories:

- Over 800 programs **failed** the standards by having graduates with annual loan payments that exceeded 12 percent of their total earnings or 30 percent of their discretionary income.
- Some 1,239 programs received a “**zone**” rating, a slightly lower level of concern, meaning their graduates' annual loan payments were 20 to 30 percent of discretionary income or 8 to 12 percent of total earnings.

Programs that fail in two of three consecutive years or are given “zone” ratings for four consecutive years are ineligible to receive Title IV student-aid funds.

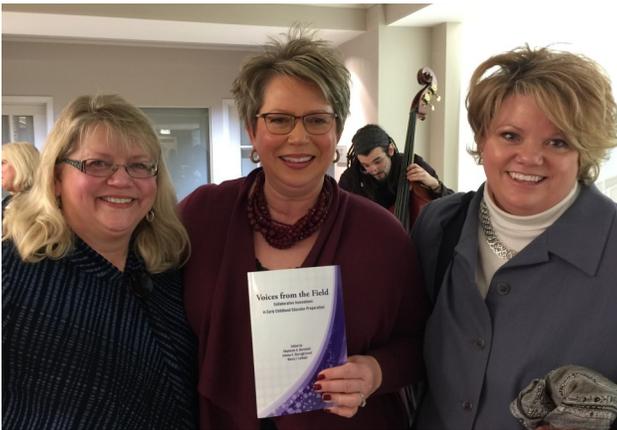
Increasing Adult Degree Completion

“Voices from the Field: Collaborative Innovations in Early Childhood Educator Preparation”, a first-ever joint publication from the **Illinois Board of Higher Education** and the **Illinois Education Research Council** was released on a special event at **Roosevelt University** in Chicago on January 26. The book highlights the accomplished work of many of our state's two- and four-year faculty to redesign early childhood educator preparation programs to meet regional and state workforce needs. Their efforts are grounded in a compelling body of research that there are substantial long-term benefits for children and the broader society when children experience high-quality early childhood programs staffed by early childhood professionals who have degrees in the field. Most recently, the **National Research Council** and the **Institute of Medicine** released a 2015 report documenting the complex knowledge and skills early childhood educators must possess in order to effectively support the full development of children, birth to age eight, and calling for baccalaureate-level preparation and commensurate compensation for early childhood educators across settings.



“Voices from the Field” provides clear, tangible examples of how two- and four-year colleges and universities across Illinois worked together, often with regional employers, to design pathways for early childhood educators to earn the state's industry-recognized Gateways credentials while taking college coursework leading to degrees. In fact, this work is situated at the very center of realizing our state's educational and economic goals in that early childhood educator preparation serves to help close achievement gaps at the beginning of K-12 schooling, and it supports the quality early learning and care settings that our state's working adults must rely on if they are to return to college to complete or further their postsecondary education.

“I am extremely proud of the leadership role IBHE has played in advancing this important work and in ensuring its national visibility through our first ever co-publishing of a volume like this,” stated **Dr. James Applegate**, IBHE executive director. “The model that has been created, focused on competency based learning/assessment and delivery models attuned to the needs of both traditional and adult learners is one that should inform all of our higher education efforts to provide talent in high workforce need areas.”



Darragh Ernst, Bernoteit, and Latham

The editors – **Stephanie Bernoteit**, IBHE; **Johnna Darragh Ernst**, Heartland Community College; and **Nancy Latham**, Illinois State University – have been at the forefront of the early childhood credentialing and competency assessment design in Illinois. “Voices from the Field” is available in the public domain through the [IERC website](#) and can be downloaded and used for non-commercial purposes with proper attribution. Additional, IERC research reports (IERC 2015 – 2 & IERC 2016 – 3) investigating the partnership activities and innovative practices emanating from the EPPI grants program are [available here](#).

The **Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)** has teamed up with the **Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT)** on a new **Going Mobile** initiative that will help teens, young adults and those considering career changes to obtain realistic projections and information. The app tells students and job seekers the reality about their career choice, so they can be prepared now for what the future could bring.

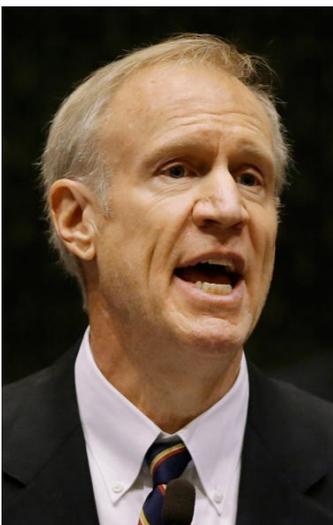
[The Reality Check mobile app offers step-by-step instructions on how to evaluate a career, obtain the education and training needed for that career through a series of questions](#) such as, “Where do you want to live?” and “What will you use for transportation?” Then it summarizes the monthly cost of these choices and generates a list of occupations that have the potential to meet this total. From there, users can explore each occupation’s educational requirements, typical tasks, work setting and salary range.

“Reality Check is a great way for young adults to really begin to consider their life choices,” said IDES Director **Jeff Mays**. “It shows the importance of education and job training to see what they need to do to get a good-paying job and/or stay in school. This app can help them find a path.”

Reality Check can be downloaded at the [Android app store](#), as well as in the Apple app store by searching “Illinois Reality Check”.

The [Career Information System](#) delivers localized occupational and career information in an intuitive, user-friendly, online format. It includes tools to learn about occupations, financial aid, apprenticeships, post-secondary schools and colleges. Salary information and job trends are available as well as information on self-employment and how military employment translates into the civilian arena.

Advocacy for Quality Higher Education



Here are a few excerpts from [Governor Bruce Rauner’s State of the State Address](#) presented to the **General Assembly** on January 25, with specific references to education in Illinois.

He started by stating that when his Administration came into office, “We needed...to ensure that all of our children could receive a high quality education and job training so they could obtain high-paying careers here, at home. Given those realities, we set key goals for our Administration:

- Make Illinois the most ethical and efficient state in the nation
- Invest in education so that Illinois has the best schools and vocational training in every neighborhood and in every community
- And most importantly, make our state more competitive, more attractive to job creators, to grow our economy and bring more good-paying jobs to our state.”

Governor Rauner went on to state that, "...our administration has made education from cradle-to-career a top priority..."

He also stated that, "Critical to our success is helping our world-class research universities like the U of I and SIU to extend their footprint in the state, form alliances with other great research institutions like the University of Chicago and Northwestern, and significantly expand their efforts in research and innovation. Our goal must be for our great research universities to drive the same stunning level of company formation, entrepreneurship, innovation and wealth creation as Harvard and MIT have done for New England and Stanford and Berkley have done for California."

Governor Rauner closed out his speech with this as one of his goals, "It's a future where our schools are the envy of the world. Where every child from every background gets the same, high-quality education – from cradle-to-career – to get on the path to wealth, prosperity and a high-quality of life."

People in the News

Governor Rauner recently announced several new appointments and reappointments to Illinois public universities' Boards of Trustees.

Chicago State University



**Kambium
Buckner**



**Nicholas
Gowen**



Tiffany Harper



Paul Vallas

Eastern Illinois University



**Phillip "PJ"
Thompson**

Governor Rauner also announced the creation of the [Chicago State Advisory Council](#) to work with the Board of Trustees to build a stronger school with improved student outcomes. The advisory council is comprised of business and community leaders who will work with the Board of Trustees in developing a new strategic plan to improve student outcomes and better manage the university. The members of the Advisory Council are:

Reappointments:
Dan Caulkins
Joseph Dively

- Dr. Michael Amiridis
- Kish Khemani
- Jim Reynolds
- Oliver Wyman Consulting
- Tony Anderson
- Dr. Walter Massey
- Sam Scott
- The Civic Consulting Alliance

Governors State University



**Carney
Barr**



**Cornelius
Griggs**



**Masah
Renwick**

Illinois State University



**Julie
Jones**



**John
Rauschenberg**



**Sharon
Rossmark**

Reappointment: **Patrick Ormsby**

Reappointment: **Robert Dobski**

Northern Illinois University



Dennis Barsema



Veronica Herrero



Eric Wasowicz

Reappointment: **Timothy Struthers**

Southern Illinois University



Marsha Ryan

Western Illinois University

Reappointments:

Lyneir Cole

Cathy Early

Todd Lester

Steve Nelson

Upcoming Events

The **Center for Tax and Budget Accountability** is hosting [a series of panel discussions](#) across the state examining Illinois' budget cuts to higher education. Overall, state funding for Higher Education in FY2016 was cut by \$1.318 billion or 67.9% from FY 2015 levels.

In partnership with the [Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University](#), the first of these panels was held in Chicago on Friday, January 27, 2017. Panelists included:

Tom Cross

Illinois Board of Higher Education

Jauwan Hall

University of Chicago Student Trustee

Ralph Martire

Center for Tax and Budget Accountability

Kyle Westbrook

Partners for College Completion

There is no fee to attend these events; however, registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)



Fund Illinois Higher Education for our State's Future: Statehouse Rally to Save Higher Education



Wednesday, February 8 | 1:00 pm
Illinois State Capitol | 1st Floor Rotunda

Visitors without passes must enter on east and west side of Capitol

We've done it before. It's time to do it again. The **Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education** needs you to join our massive rally to get the attention of legislators and the governor to fund Illinois colleges and universities. Invite everyone you can to join us and show the power in numbers.

Hosted by **Dave Tretter, Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities.**

Invited speakers include:

**IBHE Chair Tom Cross
Sen. Pat McGuire
Sen. Tom Rooney
Rep. Kelly Burke**

**Rep. Chris Welch
Rep. Dan Brady
Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth
Rep. Norine Hammond**

IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Nichole Dowling, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



If I Wore Makeup



Anxiety

Student Laureates

Blackburn
College



Veronica Milligan

Taylorville, IL
Biochemistry

Chicago State
University



Darren Martin

Chicago, IL
Psychology

Columbia College
Chicago



Rasul Freelain

Chicago, IL
Audio Design and
Production

Concordia
University Chicago



Connor Wondrasch

Rochester, MN
Theology

DePaul
University



Jessica Villagomez

Willowbrook, IL
Journalism

The Lincoln Academy wants to know what past Laureates have been up to since being named [the Lincoln Academy of Illinois](#) Student Laureate. Please call 217.785.5030 or e-mail [Julie Kellner](#) to share your story!

In Case You Missed It

A few articles and reports worth the read:

[SaukValley.com](#): No doubt about it: Sauk Valley really is a college, January 15, 2017.

[Forbes](#): College-business partnerships can solve the higher education affordability crisis, January 17, 2017.

[The News-Gazette](#): EIU looking to turn five academic majors into minors, January 18, 2017.

[The News-Gazette](#): UI plan: 93,646 students by 2021, January 18, 2017.

[Chicago Tribune](#): Colleges weigh sanctuary campus requests, January 24, 2017.

[Education Week](#): Principal-preparation programs get major makeover in Illinois, January 24, 2017.

