

60 x 2025



Top left: DePaul professor & IBHE FAC Chair Marie Donovan and IBHE Board Member Stephanie Torres; bottom left and center: student attendees; bottom right: IBHE Chair Tom Cross.

The **Illinois Coalition to Invest in Higher Education**, formed last year during an unprecedented budget crisis for Illinois colleges and universities, continued its public advocacy for higher education funding with a large rally this week at the Capitol. Coalition members representing students, families, administrators, faculty and other supporters joined **Illinois Board of Higher Education Chair Tom Cross**, **Western Illinois University President Jack Thomas**, **Illinois Student Assistance Commission Executive Director Eric Zarnikow**, **Treasurer Mike Frerichs**, students who received MAP funds, and several legislators to urge for sustainable funding and to apply the pressure needed to end the budget stalemate. Rally attendees then fanned out across the Capitol complex to make their case to legislators.



On February 8, the Senate Higher Education Committee held its first meeting of the new 100th Session of the Illinois General Assembly to receive an update on Illinois' 60% by 2025 from IBHE. Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Deputy Director for Information Management and Research, provided the committee with an [IBHE Data Point](#) and the following status report:

Background: The 60 x 25 Goal is an Illinois Goal. The [Illinois P-20 Council](#) established the goal in 2009: to increase the proportion of adults in Illinois with high-quality postsecondary degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025; and [Goal 3 of the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success](#) embodies the state's adoption of the 60 x 25 Goal: "Increase the number of high-quality postsecondary credentials to meet the demands of the economy and an increasingly global society."

Twenty-nine states, including Illinois, have articulated a statewide higher education attainment goal, set by either the governor, P-20 council, legislature, or college system. Although there is some variation across the states in terms of the percentage and timeframe within the goals, Illinois is definitely not alone in its pursuit of the 60% by 2025 goal.

Why is the goal important both then and now? There has been an increasing demand for a more educated workforce. Recent analyses have shown increases in workforce demand at every postsecondary level: from industry recognized credentials and short-term certificates to baccalaureate degrees and beyond. For example, a recent cataloging of job advertisements

across Illinois in 2014-15 showed that 54% of the ads required applicants with a bachelor's degree (Achieve, 2016).

The recession differentially impacted those with lower educational attainment levels. Individuals with a high school degree or below, as a group, lost significantly more jobs during the recession relative to individuals with some college. The same goes with job growth during the recovery which was mostly limited to individuals with at least some college (Carnevale, Jayasundera, & Gullish, 2016).

- According to a recent report from the [Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce](#), during the recession, workers with a high school diploma or less lost a combined 7.4 million jobs. During the recovery, they only gained back 80,000 of those jobs.
- Workers with an associate's degree or some college gained 3.1 million jobs during the recovery.
- Workers with a bachelor's degree or higher gained 8.4 million jobs during the recovery and never really experienced a significant loss of jobs during the recession.

Jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are becoming increasingly important to the Illinois economy. According to Achieve (2016), 25% of the jobs in Illinois are in a STEM-related field. And the overwhelming majority of those jobs require a bachelor's degree or higher (75%). Relatedly, Illinois public universities have been ramping up degree production in the STEM fields and in Health fields over the past decade.

Where are we? Stock and Flow: The Lumina Foundation's most recent [Stronger Nation Report](#) indicates that nearly 50% of the working age adults in Illinois have a high quality credential.

For that report the Lumina Foundation operationalized "high quality" as an associate's degree or higher or any certificate in the sub-associate's space that resulted in a 20% wage premium over what a high school graduate would make. It was the first time certificates were integrated into the metric. In the past, only associate's degree and higher college attainment was used as the metric.

A few have argued that the 20% wage premium is somewhat high, particularly for short-term certificates, some of which only take a month or two to complete. The purpose of the *Stronger Nation* report was to get states involved in discussions specific to defining high quality within the sub-associate's space within the context of the given state. And Illinois has entered into that discussion. IBHE has been leading an interagency working group inclusive of our sister higher education agencies, ISAC and ICCB, ISBE, DCEO, IDES, Secretary Purvis' office, and the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. The group's immediate goals are to develop a definition that could be applied to the private business and vocational school (PBVS) sector, which IBHE oversees. The working group plans to first use labor market projections and then actual student outcomes, and has decided to use a 10% wage premium, while also considering the social utility of programs. There are some programs that might not meet the 10% wage premium threshold but definitely meet a societal need. An example would be some early childhood education programs.

How does Illinois compare? Currently and using the new measurement, roughly 50% of the working age adults in Illinois have some sort of high quality credential. This was up from about 43% the year prior. Using the old measurement without credentials, still would have resulted in an increase of roughly one percentage point to 44%.

At nearly 50% of its working age population with a high quality credential, Illinois is among the top ten performing states. The national rate is 45.3%, which places Illinois about 10% and five percentage points higher than the national average. Illinois is about five percentage points lower than the national leaders, Massachusetts and Colorado.

Illinois outperforms all of its neighboring states: Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, and Indiana. The previously mentioned six states happen to be the top destinations for Illinois high school graduates attending four-year colleges outside of Illinois. Also, nearly 35% of Illinois residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. None of the neighboring states are higher than 30%.

In terms of examining population-based metrics, or **the stock**, Illinois is doing quite well.

How is Illinois doing with the flow? One of the ways to measure flow is to examine degree production at postsecondary providers within a given state. The idea is that the flow needs to be increased, or at least maintained, to move the population-based metric towards the 60% by 2025 goal. IBHE has been tracking degree production across all sectors since the goal was established, as well as estimating the increase in degree production necessary to reach the goal.

Unfortunately, degree production in Illinois has tapered off recently, state-wide and in most sectors. As the projected need increases year over year, the state is starting to get off track in terms of progress towards 60% by 2025.

This metric includes certificates that are at least one year in length, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees. With this metric a single person could earn multiple degrees and credentials in the same year, or in different years and be counted multiple times. This is different from the stock measurement which looks at an individual at a single point in time and determines that person's highest level of educational attainment.

In examining recent trends in degree production in Illinois, the community college sector is the only sector to demonstrate yearly growth. Meanwhile, activity in the private for-profit sector has substantially decreased while degree production at public universities and private not-for-profit institutions has remained roughly flat, but both are currently trending slightly downward.

Reaching the 60% goal will require greater effort in all four sectors as the "needed" line continues its upward trajectory every year. However, at the present time, individuals who enter Illinois already holding a credential earned in another state cannot be tracked with Illinois-specific data systems. Those numbers would help in raising the bar to meet the "needed" line. That is why it is useful to use both degree production (flow) within the state as well as the educational attainment data (stock) from the U.S. Census and other sources to measure such progress.

Loyola University Chicago has become a fully-participating institution in the **Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI)**. With the addition of Loyola, the IAI now has 94 public and private institutions participating at this level as of January 2017. Institutions choosing to participate as a full-participant must seek approval for and maintain a complete General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package of courses, and agree to accept as meeting all lower-division general education requirements of the institution a completed GECC package from any other participating institution. For a complete list of all IAI participating institutions, [click here](#).

Increasing Affordability

Illinois continues to partner with **Complete College America (CCA) Game Changer program, 15 to Finish**, one of five CCA game changers that can significantly increase the number of students successfully completing college on time. There are several free tools currently available to institutions for use in providing advisor training and scaling up *15 to Finish* initiatives:

- CCA has free open source materials such as posters, videos, and presentations [available here](#).
- In January, CCA and NACADA: The Global Advising Community, released [a shared set of principles](#) which outlines academic advisors' integral role in college completion efforts and encourages participation in *15 to Finish* campaigns that increase credit accumulation and provide students critical information about on-time completion.
- CCA and NACADA will present **15 to Finish - Advising Matters**, a [free webinar](#), on **Thursday, February 16, at 1 pm (CST)**. The Zoom webinar will feature distinguished panelists discussing the *15 to Finish* campaign begun by CCA, highlight the different campaigns across the United States, and outline the resources available for advisors and advising administrators for advocacy and implementation on their campuses. Interested participants may access the [webinar on February 16 here](#).



Increasing Adult Degree Completion

The **Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)** Board held its first **Workforce Education Strategic Plan Steering Committee** meeting on January 24, entering the final phase of development of the Workforce Education Strategic Planning process. The development of a strategic plan is intended to ensure the community college system remains a leader in workforce training and education, and becomes even more responsive to changing employer and student needs throughout the state. The outcome of the plan will expand and enhance Illinois' ability to attract, retain, and grow businesses while developing educational opportunities aligned with workforce needs that support students' success in the workforce. The committee is made up of 60 members that include leaders from state agencies, education, workforce, business, and philanthropic organizations. This process will be completed by June 2017.

Advocacy for Quality Higher Education

The **Illinois Senate Higher Education** and **House Higher Education Committee** members have been named for the **100th General Assembly**. [Sen. Pat McGuire](#) (D-43) is the Chairperson, [Sen. Bill Cunningham](#) (D-18) is the Vice-Chairperson, and [Sen. Tom Rooney](#) (R-27), is the Minority Spokesperson for the [Senate Higher Education Committee](#). The [House Higher Education Committee](#) Chairperson is [Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch](#) (D- 7). [Rep. Carol Ammons](#) (D- 103) is the Vice-Chairperson, and [Rep. Norine K. Hammond](#) (R-93) is the Republican Spokesperson.

The [Senate Appropriations II Committee](#) includes higher education appropriations. The Chairperson is [Sen. Andy Manar](#) (D-48), Vice-Chairperson is [Sen. Heather A. Steans](#), and Minority Spokesperson is [Sen. Chapin Rose](#) (D-51). The [House Appropriations – Higher Education Committee](#) is chaired by [Rep. Kelly M. Burke](#) (D- 36), Vice-Chairperson is [Rep. Cynthia Soto](#) (D-4), and [Rep. Dan Brady](#) (R-105) is Republican Spokesperson.

People in the News

[Chicago State University \(CSU\)](#) took first place in the [Honda Campus All-Star Challenge](#) (HCASC) Qualifying Tournaments on February 4 and advanced to regionals. CSU will compete at nationals against 47 other teams on April 8-12. The Honda-Campus All-Star Challenge is a quiz bowl competition for historically and predominantly black colleges and universities. CSU's team finished in second place last year.

The CSU team includes **Nicolette Sanders**, **Isiah Samuel**, **Courtney Jenkins** (Psychology) and **Kayla Mensah** (Biology- Pre-Med). The team was coached by **Dr. Olanipekun Laosebikan** and graduate student **Brandon Morgan**.

"I am extremely proud of our students," said CSU Interim President **Cecil Lucy**. "They put in a lot of hard work to prepare for this competition and have demonstrated that it's not just about trivia, it's also about working together to learn and improve their skill set as critical thinkers."



Stan Jones, founder of **Complete College America (CCA)**, passed away on February 6, announced CCA Interim President **Tom Sugar**. Before establishing CCA, Jones served in the Indiana legislature and as Indiana Commissioner on Higher Education. "Stan never stopped pushing against barriers holding back student success – especially for those most often left behind," Sugar said.

"Thousands will never know his name, but they will become college graduates because he smoothed and shortened their pathways to completion. And that's the only legacy to which humble Stan Jones ever aspired. Not one to look back, Stan leaned forward and so must we, redoubling our efforts to translate good intentions and best practices into a powerful movement for change."

Upcoming Events

First Tri-State Manufacturing Conference at JWCC to Help Companies Expand in New Era



Event Part of JWCC's Regional Workforce Training Partnership Efforts

The first **Tri-State Manufacturing Conference** for Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri will take place March 15 to help companies of all sizes learn more about emerging trends in the new era of manufacturing.

The event will take place at **John Wood Community College's** (JWCC) Heath Center in Quincy, Illinois, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Key educational, business and economic development partners from three states have joined forces to create the conference to help regional manufacturers develop employees, processes and technology to grow business and expand into new markets.

National speakers set to present during the conference include **John McElligott**, CEO of York Exponential manufacturing technology company, **Jason Tyszko**, executive director of the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation and **April Glosser**, president of Thrive Market Intelligence.

The conference will feature roundtables and breakout sessions on supply chain/logistics, the talent pipeline, sales growth, market intelligence, technology adoption and leadership. Attendees will have the opportunity to network during the event and take part in a small group discussion to learn how some manufacturers apply new technology in daily operations. Vendors will also display new technology and products.

"John Wood strives to be the community's partner and leader in workforce training, and partnering with organizations in our neighboring states is one way to add value for manufacturers throughout the region," **William Stuflick**, JWCC dean of career, technical and health education shared. "We also want to continue to listen to and learn from manufacturers to equip their future workforce with the new skills they need to be successful."

Partners in the conference include [JWCC](#), [Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center](#), [Missouri Enterprise](#), [Great River Economic Development Foundation](#), [Workforce Innovation Board of Western Illinois](#), [Iowa State University Center for Industrial Research and Service](#), [Quincy University](#), and [Spoon River College](#).

Cost for the conference is \$45 including lunch. The event is open to leaders and employees from small and large size manufacturers as well as suppliers and related businesses in the industry. Registration information is available at the [JWCC website](#) or by contacting JWCC at 217-641-4971 or lewis@jwcc.edu.



2017 College Changes Everything Conference

The 2017 **College Changes Everything** (CCE) Conference takes place on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, Illinois. The 2017 CCE Conference theme is *Equity in College and Career Readiness Initiatives – Ensuring That All Students Are Equipped for Success*. Our success as a state depends upon all students having the opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

Please consider submitting an interest session proposal for the conference. Priority consideration will be given to completed [session proposal forms](#) submitted by March 17, 2017. More information about interest session submission and the conference can be found on the [2017 College Changes Everything Conference website](#).

IBHE Student Art Exhibition

James Constantine, Moraine Valley Community College



Untitled



Fade to Black

Student Laureates

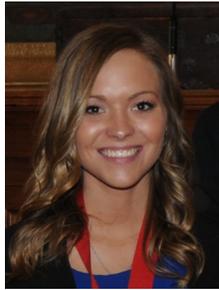
Dominican University



Raunel Urquiza

Chicago, IL
Social Justice &
Civic Engagement
and Theology

Eastern Illinois University



Michaela Crabtree

Ellis Grove, IL
Kinesiology and
Exercise Science

East-West University



Raymond Davis

Chicago, IL
Business
Administration

Elmhurst College



Marie A. Partyka

Wood Dale, IL
Communication
Sciences & Disorders
and Music

Eureka College



Grace A. K. Mahasi

Peoria, IL
Biology and
Chemistry

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:

[State Journal-Register](#): Our view: Illinois needs to make higher education a priority, February 8, 2017.

[Washington Post](#): Universities try new way of providing aid to boost graduation rates for low-income students, February 6, 2017.

[Bloomington Pantagraph](#): State of the standoff: some universities 'running on fumes', February 2, 2017.

[Inside Higher Ed](#): Is 'inclusive access' the future for publishers? January 31, 2017.

[Peoria Public Radio](#): Without MAP, students have nowhere to go, January 27, 2017.

[Daily Herald](#): Oakton approves \$1.4 million expense to keep adult education classes, January 25, 2017.

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