The House Higher Education Appropriations Committee received testimony from IBHE Chair Tom Cross and ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow on March 16 related to the fiscal year 2018 budget proposals. Both Cross and Zarnikow returned to the General Assembly to testify before the Senate Appropriations II Committee on March 30, again on budget proposals for 2018, and both discussed the Monetary Award Program (MAP) and its benefits to Illinois higher education.

The Monetary Award Program (MAP) recommendations for FY18, include the governor’s budget recommendation increasing funding to $401 million, $36.5 million more than appropriated for FY15, which would allow the program to serve more than 12,000 additional students. The IBHE recommended an even bigger investment in MAP for FY18, requesting an additional $100 million. This could serve an additional 33,000 to 40,000 students at the current level of awards or increase the amount of the student awards to help keep pace with tuition and fee increases. For FY16, funding for the second half of the 2015-16 school year was not appropriated until the end of June, after the school year had ended. To date, NO funding has yet been approved to pay for FY17 MAP grants for this current school year.

Chair Cross brought attention to the fact that even if MAP were to receive these additional appropriations, it would still be underfunded. Over the last decade, demand has increasingly exceeded funding, so much so that in the last few years, the state has only been able to offer MAP grants to less than half the students who are eligible. About 150,000 students each year have been turned away. The dollar amount of funding for MAP has been relatively flat since 2002 while the volume of eligible students has increased by over 100,000, a 50% increase. It is estimated that a total of $944.2 million would be needed in order to cover all MAP eligible students under the current formula. With the ongoing delay in funding MAP, Illinois colleges and universities are seeing more and more MAP-eligible students making the choice to go part-time, out-of-state, or simply not to attend college at all. “It is a mistake for us as a state not to be committed to continue with MAP grants to make sure Illinoisans that want to go to college but don’t have the financial means can go,” Cross stated. “We should help them to get on the college track, and that is what MAP can do.”
ISAC Director Zarnikow’s testimony focused on the crucial role MAP plays in providing access to college, including evidence that MAP gets results. MAP recipients graduate at about the same rate as other students at the same college despite facing far more financial obstacles than their peers. In part because of the success of MAP, Illinois has the second highest public university graduation rate in the region, at 59%, despite educating more lower-income students than other states in the region. Moreover, MAP recipients regularly share that the program is vital for their success. From a recent ISAC survey of recipients: MAP played an important role in helping them enroll in college, reduced the number of hours they had to work, and reduced the amount of money they had to borrow. MAP is vital in helping minorities go to college – almost 60% of black students and over 40% of Hispanic students at Illinois public universities attend college with the help of MAP. The average family income of a MAP recipient is about $28,000 and about 55% have no resources to pay for college. A majority of MAP recipients come from a home where no parent has a college credential. MAP recipients often choose service majors: health, business and education majors are the most popular.

“Notably, MAP has long had bipartisan support and has received at least level funding in nearly every proposed budget bill. Indeed, the governor and legislators in both chambers have indicated that they are still interested in providing “an appropriate level of support” for MAP in fiscal year 2017, as well as additional funding for next year,” stated Zarnikow. “The delay is particularly frustrating because our elected officials appear to agree that MAP funding is needed to provide access for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans with modest means who want to attend college, and for the Illinois community colleges, public universities and private colleges and universities who want to provide a college education to them.”
Congratulations to these Illinois colleges and universities for being named to the 2017 Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll:

- DePaul University
- Dominican University
- Illinois State University
- Lake Forest College
- Trinity International University
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes the importance of institutional commitment and investment of resources to support community college transfer. 2017 marks the second year DePaul University and Illinois State University were named to the Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll.

Education Management Corporation (EDMC) has announced the execution of a definitive agreement for the sale of substantially all the assets of EDMC and its schools to Dream Center Foundation (DCF), a not-for-profit foundation. The sale is expected to be completed in summer of 2017.

The transaction includes all the faculty and staff of Argosy University and the Art Institutes of Chicago and Schaumburg, which are currently enrolling new students. It also includes a majority of the employees from EDMC’s corporate offices. Students currently enrolled at the education systems will continue in their studies.

The Dream Center Foundation is an endowment fund that provides opportunity and resources to many people in the United States through its 110 locations across the country. The transaction provides the various schools the opportunity to educate students as part of a not-for-profit organization. The transaction is subject to a number of operational and other closing conditions, including the receipt of regulatory approvals from the U.S. Department of Education, institutional accrediting agencies, state licensing boards, programmatic accreditation bodies, and IBHE.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is once again hiring Corps members for a two-year term. Corps members are near-peer mentors placed throughout the state that help students navigate the college-going process, especially the part of how to pay for college. ISAC is looking for individuals that enjoy helping others, especially those students that may be the first in their family to go to college or who may be low-income. The positions will be located in all parts of the state. Individuals can apply through ISAC’s online system, where the full job description is found after clicking on Community Work – ISACorps. If you have any questions about the ISACorps program and the available positions, contact Abel Montoya, Director of Outreach Operations. Additional information on the ISACorps can be found here.
The mission of the **College Illinois! 529 Prepaid Tuition Program** is to help make college a reality for Illinois families. The plan offers a tax-advantaged way to prepay for the future cost of college tuition and mandatory fees by buying semesters of college at today’s plan rate. So no matter how high future tuition climbs by the time your child is ready to attend college, you will know that it will be covered for the schools in your plan. And College Illinois! plans are not limited to Illinois colleges. The value of plan benefits can be applied to tuition at accredited private or out-of-state colleges across the nation. More than 30,000 students have gone to college using College Illinois! benefits, and this year alone College Illinois paid benefits for more than 10,000 students. Click here to watch an informative video that will help you learn more about College Illinois! or visit [CollegeIllinois.org](http://CollegeIllinois.org).


### People in the News

The **Illinois Community College System** and the **Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society** honored the Phi Theta Kappa **All-Illinois Academic Team** on April 4. Eighty-four students from around Illinois were honored at a banquet in Springfield.

Sheetal Singh of **Oakton Community College** was named the **New Century Scholar** and was named a Top 20 All-USA Community College Academic Team Member. Also honored were **Coca-Cola Scholars Torri Frye** (Olney Central College), **Molly Velbeck** (Rock Valley College), and **Rachel Henderson** (Spoon River College).

Two freshman engineering students from the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Alex Darragh and Matt Steinlauf, have been selected as one of seven teams from across the world (from among an applicant pool of over 3,000) to have their experimental design to support life on the moon carried into space by **Team Indus**. Team Indus is a part of the **Google Lunar Xprize** challenge to develop low-cost methods of robotic space exploration. The lead U of I faculty member working with Alex and Matt is Dr. Prasanta Kalita, Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of ACES and Professor in Agriculture and Biological Engineering. See a video of their lunar greenhouse project and proposal to Team Indus here.
Governor Bruce Rauner announced he has appointed Don Edwards to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Currently, Edwards is the CEO of private equity investment firm Flexpoint Ford (Edwards Capital LLC). He also serves on the boards of the Chicago Park District, World Business Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and Lurie Children’s Hospital. Edwards earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois and his MBA from Harvard Business School. He lives in Chicago.

Dr. Dennis Papini has been selected to become the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs of the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS). Papini has served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at South Dakota State University since 2012. In that role he oversaw 15 academic departs, helped create a new strategic plan, added four new degree programs, helped fundraise $86 million, and launched an Underrepresented Dissertation Fellows Program to bring minority faculty to the university. “Dr. Papini received strong support from the Provost search committee, whose members were appreciative of the depth and breadth of his experience as it relates to the Provost position as well as his strong listening skills, budgeting background, and results-oriented planning experience,” UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch.

A native of Orion, IL, Papini earned his bachelor’s degree from Western Illinois University and holds a Ph.D. and master’s degree from West Virginia University.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has announced Juan Salgado to serve as the next Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago (CCC). Salgado has focused his 20-year career on improving education and economic opportunities for residents in low-income communities. Salgado also brings to the role experience working with CCC, which he has partnered with since 2005 to address the needs of bilingual students and professionals by advocating for stronger career pathways in healthcare fields. Salgado has served as CEO of Instituto del Progreso Latino since 2001, where he is focused on empowering residents through education and skill-building programs that lead to sustainable employment and economic stability.

“I am honored that Mayor Emanuel has given me the opportunity to lead and build on the momentum City Colleges has gained in recent years,” said Salgado. Salgado is originally from Calumet Park, and he began his college education at Moraine Valley Community College, moving on to earn a Bachelors from Illinois Wesleyan, and a Masters from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Salgado has been lauded nationally for his work, most recently as a 2015 recipient of the “MacArthur Genius” award, one of the most prestigious innovation prizes in the United States.
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville’s Kim Durr, chief of staff in the Office of the Chancellor, has been appointed chair of the National Association of Presidential Assistants in Higher Education (NAPAHE) organization’s Board of Directors. Durr assumed the one-year post at NAPAHE’s annual meeting on March 12 in Washington, D.C. The mission of NAPAHE is to enhance the profession of its nearly 500 members and “address the broad range of roles fulfilled by presidential assistants in service to presidential leadership and higher education.”

Rockford University President Eric W. Fulcomer has announced the appointment of Dr. Michael P. Mihalyo, Jr. as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, effective this summer. Dr. Mihalyo will succeed Dr. Belinda Wholeben, who will retire after 23 years with the University at the end of the academic year, serving the last two years as provost. Mihalyo has more than two decades of experience in higher education, and previously has filled the role of provost at two liberal arts colleges in West Virginia: Bethany College and Davis and Elkins College, where he was appointed president. Most recently, he served as president of the Kentucky-based Appalachian College Association.

Upcoming Events

University of Illinois Undergraduate Research Day: Posters under the Dome is collaboration between the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Illinois at Springfield, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, highlighting the accomplishments of undergraduates who are engaged in research, scholarship, and original creative work on campus. It provides a venue for students to present their findings in poster format to Illinois representatives and the public, showing the impact of research and original scholarship on innovation, knowledge production, and the social good in our state. The event also allows members of the Illinois legislature to witness first-hand the positive impact that undergraduate research programs have on student success. This element is especially crucial as we seek support for public higher education more generally. The University of Illinois Springfield serves generously as the host institution, with each campus bringing around ten students to the event. The University of Illinois Research Day: Posters under the Dome is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2017, from 9 am to 12 pm at the Illinois Capitol.

Other News

The US Department of Homeland Security, National Protection & Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Security Compliance Division (DHS, NPPD, ISCD) works to ensure facilities holding certain Chemicals of Interest (COI) are properly securing them under the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, established under 6 C.F.R. Part 27. The intent of the CFATS program is to identify and regulate high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce the risks associated with these chemicals and to protect chemical facilities from the threat of terrorist attack or exploitation.

Since CFATS is a relatively new regulation, some facilities/organizations are not aware of the regulation and their requirements under the law, resulting in the issue of noncompliance with the CFATS program. Click here for more information on CFATS for colleges and universities which will provide more information on CFATS and how it may affect academic institutions.
IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Damaris Dunham, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Untitled

Untitled

Untitled

Student Laureates

Lincoln College
Kristin Werry
Peoria, IL
Organizational Leadership

Lincoln Land Community College
Brandon Lewis
Springfield, IL
Associate's Degree

Loyola University Chicago
Sojourney Rallo
Northbrook, IL
Social Work

MacMurray College
Jasmine White
Jacksonville, IL
Criminal Justice and Homeland Security

McKendree University
Acadia Reynolds
New Orleans, LA
Elementary Education

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:

**NBC 5 Chicago**: Facing budget shortfall, NEIU cancels classes for 3 days, April 5, 2017.

**Northern Public Radio**: NIU may consider staff reductions amid budget impasse, April 5, 2017.

**NPR Illinois/WUIS-91.9**: College prezzes: stuck between a rock and a harsh reality, April 3, 2017.

**Crain’s Chicago Business**: 5 colleges launch H1-B effort to keep entrepreneurs in Chicago, March 15, 2017.