Illinois is among the national leaders in the rate of bachelor’s degree completion among transfer students from community colleges...

...Illinois has a robust higher ed system that produces more bachelor’s degree completers with prior comm. college enrollment than those other national leaders.

Illinois public universities produce more degrees relative to the number of students enrolled than their peers and perform substantially better than the national avg.

Most undergraduate students served by IL institutions, particularly the public colleges, are Illinoisans.

Illinois public universities are among the national leaders in completion rates for adult learners, second only to Virginia.
Dr. Karen Hunter Anderson, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), on August 11, visited Rolling Meadows High School and recognized High School District 214 for excellence in early career-related education and career exploration opportunities. The visit was part of a statewide tour to unveil the ICCB’s Workforce Education Strategic Plan* and highlight best practices across the state in workforce training.

Anderson was joined by Superintendent Dr. David Schuler who discussed how District 214 has developed innovative partnerships with the community college system to provide all students with career and educational experiences related to the workforce.

District 214’s robust Career Pathways program provides all students with rigorous academic courses, access to early college credits and industry certifications, and personalized and career-specific learning experiences. The program gives students exposure to coursework directly related to a future career that can lead to an industry credential, allowing them to be immediately employable upon graduation. It also guarantees that students who choose one of the 16 Career Clusters in the program by the end of their sophomore year receive hands-on workplace learning experiences, such as internships, that enable them to explore their career interests while still in high school.

“High school graduation cannot be an endpoint,” said Schuler. “We know we are part of the cradle-to-careers pipeline and that our Career Pathways program leads to the next step, whether it be enrolling in college, entering the military or going straight into the workforce.”

“I am astounded that over the last six years District 214 students have logged over 2 million hours in workplace learning experiences, many through partnerships with community colleges,” said Anderson. “District 214’s collaboration with community college and business partners to facilitate earlier student engagement in career exploration, hands-on training, internships, and dual credit programs is a model for community colleges, business and K-12 partnerships across the state.”

*ICCB’s statewide tour continues and will be reported in the IBHE Bulletin in future issues. ICCB’s Workforce Education Strategic Plan will expand and enhance Illinois’ ability to attract, retrain and grow business and develop educational opportunities to support students’ success in the workforce. The plan is the culmination of regional meetings held in each of the state’s ten economic development regions with partners from across the education, economic development, and workforce sectors. The resulting plan identified four priority areas to be addressed over the next five years. These areas are:

1. Increase Early Career-Related Education and Exposure
2. Address Essential and Occupational Skill Gaps
3. Align Education and Training Programs to Employers’ needs
4. Strengthen Connections among Public Partners and Engagement and Alignment with Business
Cook County officials recently honored the University of Illinois at Chicago’s CHANCE program’s efforts to assist UIC in the recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented groups. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago honored the program by passing a resolution on Aug. 3 applauding its efforts.

CHANCE, which stands for Counseling Help and Assistance Necessary for a 21st century College Education, was formed in 2004 to help UIC reach students from underrepresented populations and provide them with support through counseling and workshops. The program has graduated 660 students, including 596 bachelor’s degree recipients, 53 master’s degree recipients, and 11 doctoral degree recipients. Click here for more information about the CHANCE program.

The proclamation, sponsored by Commissioner Kari Steele, also applauded the Chicago Housing Authority, or CHA, and the Ameresco Corporation for joining UIC in 2011 to create the CHANCE for CHAnge Summer Youth STEM camp. The summer program seeks to introduce 25 high school sophomores and juniors to STEM, science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. “Over a six-week period these students came to the UIC campus daily and were exposed not only to our college setting and our rigorous curricula but of most importance, a safe-zone environment,” says Kendal Parker, director of the CHANCE program.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, as part of her investigation into Corinthian Colleges, is reaching out to students who attended Corinthian programs that the U.S. Department of Education found were affected by fraud. Corinthian operated primarily as Everest College in Illinois. Students who received outreach from Attorney General Madigan can find information on how to apply on the outreach administrator’s website. More than 2,800 Illinois students who attended a Corinthian school will be eligible for a portion of $11.6 million in relief, Madigan said. Of those students, more than 70 percent will have all of their receiver-held loans canceled.

Northwestern University’s new provost, Jonathan Holloway, greeted the community warmly on August 1 with a promise to address the University’s needs and a determination to strengthen critical funding for research across the disciplines.

A historian specializing in African American studies, the former dean of Yale College at Yale University began his tenure at Northwestern declaring he was delighted to join “[Northwestern’s] vibrant, world-class institution” and looked forward to pursuing “my own research agenda, even as I support my faculty colleagues in doing the same.” Holloway holds a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and a master’s degree, a M.Phil., and a Ph.D.
Illinois colleges and universities student government leaders are invited to send a representative to the **IBHE Student Advisory Committee (IBHE-SAC)** meeting on September 9, at the IBHE Office in Springfield. This meeting will hold an election for IBHE student board member, IBHE non-traditional student board member, and two IBHE-SAC leaders for the 2017-18 academic year.

The mission of the Student Advisory Committee is two-fold:

- **To represent all higher education students in Illinois** on state-level issues concerning higher education by providing input to the IBHE student members on the Board of Higher Education; and

- Serve as a coordinating body for student leaders as they address local and institutional higher education issues on their campuses.

All Illinois community colleges, public universities and private colleges and universities student government leaders are encouraged to participate in the activities of IBHE –SAC. In order to participate in the annual election process occurring on September 9, a [Student Voting Representative Form](#) must be completed and signed by the campus’ Student Body President or Trustee, and submitted to IBHE before or at the meeting when the elections are held.

The first meeting of the year will be held on Saturday, September 9, at the IBHE office, 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, IL 62701, from 1:30 – 4:00 pm. (The office is walking distance to the Springfield Amtrak station, and there is free parking at the office building.) RSVP to Candace Mueller, [mueller@ibhe.org](mailto:mueller@ibhe.org), by September 5.

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**Fiscal Year 2018 Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant**

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** has received a Fiscal Year 2018 appropriation for the Illinois Cooperative Work Study (ICWS) grant. The application and review process will be similar to the 2016 process, which is available for review [here](#), along with references to the statute and rules on the IBHE website at the aforementioned web-link. The ICWS rules and statute references are also available on the website. Publishing the application detail and notice of funding opportunity is anticipated by August 31, 2017, on the IBHE website, and notice via the [Illinois Catalog of State Financial Assistance](https://catalog.state.il.us/). Grantee registration through the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) will also be required. This registration link and details are available [here](#). If you have any questions on the ICWS grant or GATA registration, please contact Bruce Bennett at [bennett@ibhe.org](mailto:bennett@ibhe.org) or 217-557-7344 or [grants@ibhe.org](mailto:grants@ibhe.org).

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**IBHE Student Art Exhibition**

**Jung Ja Jae, Olney Central College**

*Queen Anne’s Endless Laces*  
*Spring*
Student Laureates

University of St. Francis
Jeremy Grachan
Crest Hill, IL
Biology/Pre Medicine
Chemistry

VanderCook College of Music
Alexandro Gonzalez
Bolingbrook, IL
Instrumental Music Education

Western Illinois University
William Gradle
St. Charles, IL
Dual Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Economics

Wheaton College
Christopher Lee
Indianapolis, IN
Applied Health Science and Spanish

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

CBS News: One globetrotting Missouri couple’s total eclipse bliss (former Northeastern Illinois University President Sharon Hahs), August 21, 2017.