 Illinois Board of Higher Education
Annual Report
July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017

Bruce Rauner | Governor
Tom Cross | Board Chair

Mission
IBHE is responsible for planning and coordinating the state’s system of higher education in five major areas:

Structure of Higher Education in Illinois
IBHE makes budget recommendations and grants operating authority and program approval for public higher education agencies and organizations and private institutions.

Legend: green is IBHE, blue denotes a public entity with a separate governing board, and orange indicates private institutions under IBHE authority.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

- 7 Advisory Committees
- Illinois Community College Board
  - 48 Community Colleges
  - East St. Louis College Center
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- State Universities Civil Service System
- State Universities Retirement System
- Public Universities (9 Boards of Trustees)
- Independent (Private)
- Private Business and Vocational
- Illinois Mathematics & Science
- Quad Cities Graduate Study
- University Center of Lake County

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Master Planning and Policy Development

IBHE carries out its planning and policy responsibilities in a variety of ways, including ad hoc study committees, special task forces, staff initiatives, and more.

In 2008 the Board approved the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success and in 2013 commissioned a midpoint report, “The Public Agenda: 5 Years Later.” The midpoint report identified four key areas for improvement – affordability, gaps for underserved students, adult degree completion, and IBHE’s role as education advocate. The Board in turn formed Action Teams to address these issues. Each Team is comprised of Board members, IBHE staff, and external stakeholders.

External and Legislative Relations

The Board and staff analyze legislation, respond to inquiries from legislators, meet with higher education committees, and coordinate activities with legislative liaisons from other higher education agencies, institutions, and organizations.

FY17 legislative initiatives enacted include: P.A. 100-43 – changes to the Procurement Code which will positively impact higher education institutions; P.A. 100-167 – miscellaneous changes to update the Board of Higher Education Act; and P.A. 100-417 – allows ICCB and IBHE to collect a fee to cover the cost of processing and handling individual student-level data requests. Other bills impacting IBHE: P.A. 100-195 – requires higher education institutions to adopt and submit policies to award credit for military training to IBHE and ICCB - further, requires IBHE to collect data in HEIS on students who are veterans or have military service to assess enrollment and completions outcomes; P.A. 100-261 – requires public universities to submit policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to IBHE; and HJR 2 - creates the Underrepresented Groups in Academia Task Force within IBHE. The Board responded to media requests and published a bi-weekly e-newsletter, the IBHE Bulletin. External Relations staff also support IBHE’s Student Advisory Committee.

Diversity & Outreach

Diversity & Outreach staff work with external organizations that advocate for diversity in higher education, student veterans, and other underserved communities.

Board staff provided administrative support for the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois program, which aims to improve minority faculty representation through financial assistance.

IBHE issued the following annual reports in FY17:

- Underrepresented Groups in Illinois Higher Education
- Illinois African American Employment Plan for Public Universities
- Illinois Asian-American Employment Plan for Public Universities
- Illinois Hispanic Employment Plan for Public Universities

Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force

Through PA 99-395, the Illinois General Assembly appointed IBHE to create a Military Prior Learning Assessment (MPLA) Task Force, which would study and make recommendations on implementing military learning for academic credit.

The Military Prior Learning Assessment Task Force convened in February 2016 and issued its report in December. Pursuant to PA 99-395, the purpose of the Task Force is to make recommendations on how to best recognize military learning for academic credit, industry-recognized credentials, and college degrees through the use of the Prior Learning Assessment. The Task Force will integrate Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit work into state efforts.
In FY17 the Degree-Granting Unit oversaw **20 new degree programs** at public universities, **19** at community colleges, and **81** at private institutions; **3 new institutes, departments, or schools** at public universities; and **13 new authorizations** for operating authority.

The Private Business and Vocational Schools Unit approved **129 new programs of study**, **35 new permits**, and **120 renewals** and processed **979 transcript requests**.

Staff also closed **152 student complaints**.

In FY17 Academic Affairs Staff were involved with:

- Military Prior Learning Assessment & Student Veterans services
- Illinois Articulation Initiative & Distance Education
- Complete College America’s Co-requisite at Scale Initiative
- Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development grants
- Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit
- State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
- Academic program review of low-producing programs
- Educator and School Leader Preparation

Additional activities include high school to college transition and dual credit, Illinois learning standards, career pathways, completion initiatives, stackable credentials, competency-based education, and workforce development initiatives.

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**Budget and Fiscal Affairs**

Budget staff work with the higher education institutions and agencies to develop a comprehensive higher education budget recommendation (including operational and capital funding) for the Governor and legislature. Fiscal staff also prepare several annual reports.

In FY17, **$2.0 billion** was appropriated from General Funds, Personal Property Tax Relief Fund, and the Fund for the Advancement of Education for higher education operations at institutions and agencies and grant programs (excluding retirement funding). Of this **$842 million** was provided through **Stop-Gap II** to cover the first six months of the fiscal year for most areas but none for Monetary Award Program or other state sponsored student aid programs. **$1.18 billion** in funds were provided under Public Act 100-21, including for state sponsored student aid programs. Universities received **$1.2 billion**, community colleges **$289 million**, adult education **$103 million**, including funds to cover FY16 match; the Monetary Award Program received **$365 million**, and all other operations and grants received **$1 million**. In addition, the State University Retirement System received **$1.485 billion** from General Funds and **$190 million** from the State Pension Fund.

IBHE issued the following annual reports for FY17:

- Higher Education Veterans Service Act
- Public University Tuition and Fee Waivers
- Gender Equity in Intercollegiate Athletics
- Revenues and Expenditures
- Compensable Sick Leave

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**Information Management and Research**

The Board has a statutory responsibility to establish a comprehensive, meaningful, and timely system of information about higher education in Illinois by collecting data from public and private institutions.

Information gathered in FY17 include student demographics, institution-specific enrollment and degree completions, faculty and staff information, financial aid, cost to students, expenditures, and academic program costs. This information is made available to the public via reports and dynamic web applications. IM&R staff also advanced work on the Illinois Higher Education Information System and developed tools to track students from school to workforce as well as a statewide Community College Feedback Report. IM&R staff prepared **IBHE DataPoints** summarizing useful data reports on Illinois Higher Education.
**Board Members, Committees, & Action Teams**

The Board is comprised of 16 members. Student Board members are selected by the Student Advisory Committee; all other members, including the Chair, are appointed by the Governor. A variety of committees and action teams advise and advance the Board’s work.

**FY17 Board Members**
- Tom Cross, Chair*
- Jane Hays, Vice-Chair and Public Member*
- John Bambeneck, Representative of Faculty
- Jay D. Bergman, Public Member*
- Max Coffey, Public Member*
- Sherry Eagle, Representative of Public Universities*
- Alice Marie Jacobs, Public Member*
- Paul Langer, Public Member
- Cherilyn Murer, Public Member*
- Jim Palos, Public Member
- Santos Rivera, Public Member*
- Darlene Ruscitti, Public Member*
- Jack Thomas, Public Member*
- Christine Wiseman, Private Universities Representative*
- Stephanie Torres, Student Member*
- Justin Provo, Nontraditional Student Member*
- Teresa Garate, *ex officio* ICCB*
- Kevin Huber, *ex officio*, ISAC*

**Advisory Committees and Chairs**
- Community College Presidents, Thomas Ramage/John Avendano
- Disabilities Advisory Committee, Carrie Pierson/Debra Watson
- Faculty Advisory Council, Marie Donovan
- Private University Presidents, Dave Tretter
- Proprietary Advisory Committee, Ron Kimberling
- Public University Presidents and Chancellors, Larry Dietz
- Student Advisory Committee, Daniel Heylin

**Action Teams, Conveners, and Staff**
- Advocacy for Quality Higher Education, Jane Hays with Candace Mueller
- Increasing Affordability, Christine Wiseman with Kevin Schoenberg
- Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students, Teresa Garate with Arthur Sutton
- Increasing Adult Degree Completion, Justin Provo with Dan Cullen

*Denotes Board members at the end of FY17

**Staff and Fiscal Year 2017 Meetings**

IBHE staff support the Board and execute its direction. The Board holds six meetings each year with occasional special meetings as needed. All meetings are conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120].

**IBHE Organizational Chart**
At the end of FY17, IBHE had 35 employees.

**FY17 Board Meetings**
- Sept. 27 St. Xavier University, Chicago
- Nov. 23* Videoconference, Springfield and Chicago
- Dec. 13 Harper College, Palatine
- Jan. 5* Videoconference, Springfield and Chicago
- Feb. 6* James R. Thompson Center, Chicago
- Mar. 14 Aurora University, Aurora
- June 13 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

*Denotes special Board meeting