

A Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education: Planning for College and Career Success

Background Paper: The Who, What, When, Why, and How

What it is: The *Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education* is a planning blueprint for the State of Illinois to direct state policies and resources to the higher education and career needs of Illinois residents and to address the current and future economic needs of the state.

What it is not: The *Public Agenda* is not a plan for higher education institutions or the various sectors within the higher education system, including community colleges, public universities, and nonprofit and for-profit private institutions.

Background: The Illinois Board of Higher Education has the statutory responsibility for master planning, as stated in the IBHE enabling act:

The Board shall analyze the present and future aims, needs and requirements of higher education in the State of Illinois and prepare a master plan for the development, expansion, integration, coordination and efficient utilization of the facilities, curricula and standards of higher education for public institutions of higher education in the areas of teaching, research and public service.

In its spring 2007 session, the General Assembly approved House Joint Resolution 69, directing the Board of Higher Education to develop a *Public Agenda* for higher education through a broad-based task force “to study the challenges and opportunities facing higher education, the State’s workforce needs, demographic trends, and higher education funding and student financial aid.”

Purpose: The purpose of the planning initiative is to develop an action agenda, based on quantifiable evidence, for institutions, state education agencies, and the Governor and General Assembly to address the education, workforce, social, and economic needs of the State by setting priorities, developing policies, and allocating resources.

Participants:

- **Task Force** – The Task Force is chaired by the Board of Higher Education, and includes legislators, and representatives of a broad cross-section of business, labor, healthcare, civic, and education stakeholders.
- **Constituency Advisers** – Organizations representing minorities and women, individuals with disabilities, business and labor interests, state and national experts in higher education, economic development, and statewide planning, civic and foundation leaders will participate in the public agenda process in a key advisory role.
- **Higher Education Advisers** – The planning process also will involve the higher education community: Illinois Community College Board, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Presidents/Chancellors of Public Universities, Community College Presidents Council, Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, Illinois Community College Trustees Association, IBHE Proprietary Advisory Committee, Faculty Advisory Council, Student Advisory Committee, Disabilities Advisory Committee, and individual colleges and universities.

- **National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)** – National, nonprofit consultant with vast experience and expertise in assisting in development of state plans. Dennis Jones, President and principal research director of *Public Agenda*. NCHEMS has assisted in development of state plans in several states, including Indiana, Texas, and Kentucky where public agendas have been successful in producing improved educational outcomes.

Process:

- The Task Force will hold five formal meetings.
- NCHEMS will oversee regional forums to solicit comments from business, labor, political, civic, and education leaders on public needs and existing higher education policies.
- NCHEMS and IBHE will hold special briefings for legislative members and staff, higher education committees, and the education caucus. NCHEMS also will brief interested constituents, including: employers; civic and nonprofit organizations; state associations; faculty and student organizations; labor unions; state agency staff; and college and university academic, business, and legislative staff throughout the planning process.

Planning Phases:

Phase I: Definition of Public Needs – December 2007-April 2008

NCHEMS collects and analyzes historical, current, and projected data; national and international comparisons examining social, economic, demographic and educational conditions in Illinois. Data analysis will permit the state to ground the *Public Agenda* and its priorities on the needs of state residents. From this research, NCHEMS prepares a Public Needs Report.

Public Needs Report focuses on:

- Population and demographics
- Economic and workforce conditions and needs
- Education pipeline, postsecondary access and completion, student learning, and education finance

Schedule:

- March 20, Task Force meeting, 9 a.m.-noon, at DePaul University, Loop Campus.
- April 1, NCHEMS presentation to Illinois Board of Higher Education

Phase II: Higher Education Policy Audit – December 2007-June 2008

NCHEMS reviews existing policies to determine how Illinois' higher education system currently operates and the adequacy of policies to address needs in student preparation, college participation, affordability, degree completion, research and economic development, and learning.

The **Policy Audit Report** examines:

- Availability and allocation of resources
- Accountability mechanisms
- Regulations that mandate institutional or agency activities
- Governance and decision authority

Schedule:

- April 15, draft Policy Audit Analytic Framework distributed
- April 26, briefing for public university trustees, 10 a.m.-noon, NIU Naperville center
- May 1, 2008, Task Force meeting, 2-4 p.m., Chicago, Roosevelt College
- June 20, 2008, Task Force meeting, 2-4 p.m. Chicago, Robert Morris College, Chicago

Phase III: Development of Preliminary Public Agenda – May-August, 2008

NCHEMS will oversee regional forums to solicit input on Public Needs Report and Policy Audit Report from legislators, business, labor, civic leaders, K-12 and higher education faculty and administrators, and students. Based on feedback from regional forums, legislative hearings, and constituent and public briefings, IBHE staff, in conjunction with NCHEMS, will prepare a preliminary *Public Agenda* distributed to the Board of Higher Education, the Task Force, key stakeholders, and the public.

Schedule:

- June 9-June 30, regional forums
- July 7, NCHEMS report on identified needs and priorities from regional forums
- August 4, Release of preliminary *Public Agenda*
- August 12, Task Force meeting to discuss preliminary *Public Agenda*, 2-4:00 p.m. Kendall College, Chicago

Phase IV: A Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education: Planning for College and Career Success – August, 2008-October, 2008

IBHE staff, in conjunction with NCHEMS, will prepare a *Public Agenda* for consideration by the Task Force and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Board of Higher Education will take final action on the *Public Agenda* and transmit it to the Governor and General Assembly.

Schedule:

- August 15-September 15, public comment period
- September 22-26, Task Force meets to consider final *Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education*
- October 7, *Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education* presented for action by the Illinois Board of Higher Education
- October 31, *Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education* transmitted to Governor and General Assembly
- October 2008-Spring 2009, IBHE develops implementation plan for the *Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education*

Tentative Timeline and Work Plan for Development of *Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education*

DECEMBER 2007-FEBRUARY 2008:

NCHEMS research public needs, existing policies.

JANUARY 2008:

NCHEMS outlines planning process to IBHE Board members

FEBRUARY 2008:

Appointment of Task Force

MARCH 2008:

20 **FIRST TASK FORCE MEETING**
9 a.m.-noon, DePaul University, Loop Campus, Chicago

28 Progress report to IBHE, General Assembly

APRIL 2008:

1 Illinois Board of Higher Education, NCHEMS presentation
Illinois State University, Bloomington-Normal

Release of revised Public Needs Report
Distribution of Draft Policy Audit Analytic Framework

MAY-JUNE 2008:

May 1 **SECOND TASK FORCE MEETING**
2-4 p.m., Roosevelt College, Chicago

Legislative briefings/hearings

JUNE 2008:

9-30 Regional Forums

15 Progress Report to IBHE, General Assembly

20 **THIRD TASK FORCE MEETING**
2-4 p.m., Robert Morris College, Chicago

30 NCHEMS Report on Needs and Priorities from Regional Forums

DRAFT, April 21, 2008

JULY 2008:

Drafting of Preliminary Public Agenda

AUGUST 2008:

4 Distribution of Preliminary Public Agenda

August 12 THIRD TASK FORCE MEETING
2-4 p.m., Kendall College, Chicago

AUGUST -SEPTEMBER 2008:

Public Comment Period on Preliminary Public Agenda

SEPTEMBER 2008:

15 Quarterly Progress Report to IBHE, General Assembly

Week of 22-26 FINAL TASK FORCE MEETING

OCTOBER 2008:

7 IBHE action on Public Agenda

31 Presentation of Public Agenda to Governor and General Assembly

OCTOBER 2008 – SPRING 2009

Development of Implementation Plan for **Public Agenda for Illinois Higher Education**

IBHE Staff and Consultant Studies and Reports

Phase I.

Define Public Needs: What does Illinois need from higher education?

(Data collection and analysis; historical, current, and projected; national and international comparisons.)

A. Social Conditions

- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Family Structure
- Family Income
- Regional Differences
- Educational Attainment
- Population Migration
- Health Characteristics

B. Economic Conditions

- Industry Mix
- Importing/Exporting
- Economic Strengths
- Effects of Globalization
- State GDP
- Tax Collections
- New Business Starts
- Regional Differences
- Personal Income
- Healthcare quality and availability

C. Educational Conditions

- Governance/Coordination
- Finance
- Achievement Gap
- Pipeline, including healthcare and professional education
- Institutional Focus
- Regional Differences

Phase II.

Review Existing Policies: How Does Illinois' Higher Education System Currently Operate?

A. Preparation

- K-12 Student Development
- Teacher/School Leader Preparation
- Dual Enrollment
- Curriculum Alignment
- Placement Examinations
- HS Graduation Standards/Entrance Requirements
- Remediation
- Adult Education/Adult Literacy
- Feedback Mechanisms -- TDW
- Data Systems, Efficiency, Productivity
- Marketing
- Financial Implications

B. Participation

- Institutional and Sector Capacity
- Underrepresented Groups
- Distance Education
- Off-Campus Degree Completion Opportunities
- Dual Enrollment
- Counseling, Advising, Other Services
- Adult Education
- Healthcare, Graduate and Professional Training
- Certificate/Workforce Training
- Data Systems, Efficiency, Productivity
- Marketing
- Financial Implications

C. Affordability

- Campus Funding Adequacy
- Tuition and Fee Policy
- Financial Aid Programs and Policies
 - Need-based Aid
 - Merit-based Aid
 - Institutional Aid
 - Waiver Programs
 - Savings Programs
 - Loan Programs
 - Healthcare, Graduate and Professional Training
 - Relationship Between Public Funding, Tuition and Fees, and Financial Aid Policies
- Efficiency
- Data Systems, Efficiency, Productivity
- Marketing
- Financial Implications

D. Completion

- Counseling, Advising, Childcare, and Other Student Services
- Underrepresented Groups
- Off-Campus Degree Completion
- Transfer Agreements
- Illinois Articulation Initiative
- Course Applicability System
- Stop-Out, Drop-Out Intervention
- Student Achievement Goals Less Than a Degree (e.g., certificate programs)
- Data Systems, Efficiency, Productivity

E. Research and Economic Development

- Critical Workforce Needs
- Workforce Development
- Adult Education/Retraining
- Research and Development
- Applied Research Activities
- Technology Transfer
- Retention of Graduates
- Health Care Provision and Training
- Regional Cultural Resources
- Data Systems, Efficiency, Productivity
- Financial Implications

F. Learning

- Student Assessment

Phase III.

A Preliminary Higher Education *Public Agenda*

A. Goals

- Preparation
- Participation
- Affordability
- Completion
- Research and Economic Development
- Learning

B. Sector Responsibilities, Institutional Focuses, and Financial Implications

C. Accountability Measurements

D. Coordination

E. Timelines and Responsibilities