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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Illinois Board of Higher Education**

**CROSS AND BOWMAN COMMEND GOVERNOR ON FUNDING FOR  
MILITARY TUITION BENEFITS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF  
PUBLIC COLLEGE CAMPUSES**

**SPRINGFIELD** – Tom Cross, Chairman of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, expressed gratitude to Governor Bruce Rauner for proposing \$31.3 million for Illinois Veterans and National Guard Grants, and new state support of \$100 million for much needed capital spending for public university and community college facilities in his fiscal 2019 budget.

“We applaud the Governor’s pledge to target state funds for grants that provide tuition assistance to Illinois’ veterans and National Guard members attending Illinois public universities and community colleges,” Cross stated. “Illinois’ colleges deserve recognition for their military friendly educational programs that have not been fully funded since 2010.”

“We also thank Governor Rauner for recognizing the significant capital needs our state’s colleges and universities are experiencing,” Cross said. “IBHE is prepared to assist the campuses in meeting critical life safety and infrastructure needs as appropriations are made available.”

“As IBHE’s executive director, I pledge to work with the Administration, sister state agencies that serve higher education, and the higher education community as the legislative process proceeds in developing a 2019 higher education budget that will meet our goals for a statewide system of higher education that is affordable, accessible and innovative,” stated Dr. Al Bowman, executive director.

On February 6, the Board of Higher Education adopted its FY19 budget recommendations, which included the recommended funding for military tuition benefits and included a high priority list of emergency capital funding, along with regular capital and deferred maintenance projects for community colleges, public universities and the Illinois Math and Science Academy.

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