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IBHE TO PRESENT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Board of Higher Education will discuss budget recommendations at its meeting Tues., Dec. 4 at Joliet Junior College. Staff will recommend an increase in operations and grant funding for fiscal year 2020, as well as an appropriation for capital. The board meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the Building U auditorium.

“Illinois’ higher education system desperately needs significant increases in funding to address the damage done by the long decline in state support and the stopgap budget of fiscal year 2016,” said Dr. Al Bowman, executive director, IBHE. “We consider fiscal year 2002 to be the benchmark year, and even with a sizeable increase in fiscal year 2020 over fiscal year 2019, higher education funding would still be lower than 2002.”

The appropriation for fiscal year 2002 was \$2.417 billion for operations and grants for higher education (excluding the payment to the State University Retirement System), and the Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding covered 100 percent of eligible students.

“For many years, including fiscal year 2002, state government used the unwritten rule that for every \$2 in new funding for K-12 education, higher education received \$1 in new funding,” said IBHE Chairman Tom Cross. “Further, that new money was on top of a funding ratio of 2.5 to 1 for K-12 to higher education. That ratio has plummeted to 4.4 to 1. For the sake of stable funding, we need to return to the previous philosophy.”

All budget request details will be released at the board meeting.

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