




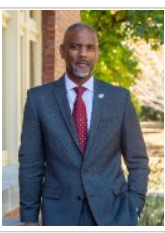






Speakers Headshots & Bios (Trustee Conference)

Headshot	Name, Title and Session Number	Bio
	<p>Mr. Martin Torres Deputy Governor of Education Office of the Governor</p> <p>(Welcome and Introductions)</p>	<p>Martin Torres is the Deputy Governor for Education in the Office of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker. Martin served as Deputy Policy Director for the governor's first campaign for office and then in the administration as a Senior Policy Advisor and later First Assistant Deputy Governor for Education. He oversees four state agencies (ISBE, IBHE, ICCB, and ISAC), chairs the P-20 Council and the Illinois Early Learning Council, and leads the appointment process for all education-related state boards and commissions. Prior to his work in state government, Martin served as associate director of the Latino Policy Forum, where he guided the organization's legislative and administrative advocacy with a focus on education, immigrant integration, and fiscal policy. He also spent several years in Washington DC working at the Alliance for Excellent Education and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Martin has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy.</p>
	<p>Mr. John Atkinson Chair Illinois Board of Higher Education</p> <p>(Welcome & Introductions; Session I)</p>	<p>John Atkinson is responsible for leading Marsh's Senior Living & LTC Industry Practice for the US and Canada. In this role John collaborates in leading the most innovative and experienced insurance, risk, and human capital teams focused exclusively on unique risk and talent challenges of the senior care and aging services industry.</p> <p>John also serves as chairman of Marsh Chicago where he helps lead civic and community engagement for the firm and works alongside the leadership team to support Marsh's growing business in the Midwest.</p>
	<p>Ms. Ginger Ostro Executive Director Illinois Board of Higher Education</p> <p>(Session I & II)</p>	<p>Ginger joined IBHE in February 2020, and six weeks later, everything was shut down due to COVID-19. Since then, she has led the agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading the development of guidance for the higher education system; worked with other agencies and stakeholders to develop an equity-centered strategic plan for Illinois higher education, A Thriving Illinois; and is currently working on multiple new initiatives, including the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding and the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity.</p> <p>Ginger Ostro brings extensive policy and finance leadership to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She previously served as interim Chief Financial Officer and Vice-President of Financial Operations at Chicago State University, the state's only public four-year Predominately Black Institution. Ginger served as Executive Director of Advance Illinois as it helped architect the successful effort to fix the nation's least-equitable K12 funding formula. Earlier in her career, she served for over six years at the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, where she rose to director and she served as Deputy Executive Director at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. She played a lead role as budget director and CFO at Chicago Public Schools in developing and implementing a more equitable system of allocating funding across schools. Ginger has also served in multiple roles in state government and at Governors State University.</p>
	<p>Dr. Javier Reyes Interim Chancellor University of Illinois Chicago</p> <p>(Session II)</p>	<p>Dr. Javier Reyes serves as Interim Chancellor of the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). As Interim Chancellor, Dr. Reyes leads Chicago's largest University campus and only R1 public research university indicating the highest level of research activity. Prior to his service as Interim Chancellor, Dr. Reyes became Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UIC on August 16, 2021. In this role, Dr. Reyes served as UIC's chief academic officer overseeing matters of academic policy, strategic direction, enrollment management and academic resource planning.</p> <p>As Provost, Dr. Reyes initiated an overhaul of UIC's budget model while also restructuring teaching environments to position UIC for success in a new era of innovative and accessible education. He also led efforts to attract exceptional candidates for leadership roles including the Dean of the UIC School of Law, the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, the College of Business Administration, and others. Committed to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, he also outlined a bold vision to address gaps in racial equity across the institution, with a specific focus on increasing Black student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates, which will catalyze transformation in support of a more equitable future at every level of the campus.</p> <p>Before joining UIC, Dr. Reyes served as West Virginia University's Milan Puskar Dean of the John Chambers College of Business and Economics and vice president for Start-up West Virginia. He also served in several roles at the University of Arkansas including vice provost for distance education, associate dean for undergraduate studies and executive education at the Arkansas' Sam M. Walton College of Business, and as a member of the economics faculty. He has served as an academic scholar in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, and as a research analyst for the investment firm Value Casa de Bolsa, headquartered in Mexico.</p> <p>Dr. Reyes received his bachelor's degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey and his doctorate in economics from Texas A&M University.</p>
	<p>Dr. Gloria Gibson President Northeastern Illinois University</p> <p>(Session II)</p>	<p>Dr. Gloria J. Gibson was appointed president by Northeastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees on March 15, 2018. Her three-year term began on June 1, 2018. Prior to coming to Northeastern, Dr. Gibson served as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Morgan State University.</p> <p>A native of East St. Louis, Illinois, Dr. Gibson's academic career began with both a master's and bachelor's degree in music education from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. She then earned a Ph.D. in Folklore with a concentration in ethnomusicology from Indiana University at Bloomington.</p> <p>At Indiana University, starting in 1995, she served as an associate professor in a variety of departments, including Afro-American Studies, Communications and Culture, and Folklore and Ethnomusicology. In 2004, she went to Arkansas State University, where she was the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences before accepting in 2009 the role of executive vice president and provost at the University of Northern Iowa.</p> <p>She moved to Baltimore in 2015 to serve as senior vice president and provost at Morgan State University, which is one of the largest federally designated Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). At Morgan State, Dr. Gibson led the development and approval of several online programs, established the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, provided leadership in the university's pursuit of reaccreditation, and built strong relationships with shared governance bodies, among other things.</p> <p>From the day she became President of Northeastern, Dr. Gibson has maintained her strong dedication to the areas of access / opportunity and student success. She has not only been able to stop declines in new student recruitment but has grown graduate enrollment, boosted retention rates and re-committed the University in the areas of marketing, student engagement, fundraising and government and community relations.</p> <p>Dr. Gibson has two adult sons, Antonio and Kristopher, and close relatives living in the Metro-East Illinois area.</p>
	<p>Dr. Austin Lane Chancellor Southern Illinois University Carbondale</p> <p>(Session II)</p>	<p>A native of New Jersey, Dr. Lane graduated from Hackensack High School and attended Odessa Junior College in West Texas on a basketball scholarship. He holds a B.A. in psychology from Langston University, M.A. in human relations from the University of Oklahoma and Ed.D. in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.</p> <p>Before joining SIU Carbondale, Dr. Lane's career in higher education was marked by a variety of successive leadership roles and professional achievements. A more than 25-year higher education administrator and faculty member, Lane served as president of Texas Southern University, executive vice chancellor of academic and student affairs at Lone Star College System, president of Lone Star College-Montgomery, vice president for student affairs at Tyler Junior College, and dean of students at the University of Texas at Arlington.</p> <p>During his time at SIU Carbondale, Dr. Lane has overseen the launch and implementation of the university's strategic plan, Imagine 2030, which rests on five equally important strategic pillars: student success and engagement; diversity, equity and inclusion; branding and partnerships; research and innovation, and sustainability. Enrollment of new freshmen has grown significantly, even during the pandemic, and more students from the Southern Illinois region are choosing to earn their bachelor's degrees close to home.</p> <p>He is married to Loren Lane and has three children, Lauren, Chase and Lance</p>
	<p>Mr. Thomas Bearrows General Counsel University of Illinois</p> <p>(Session III)</p>	<p>As University Counsel, Tom is a general officer of the Board of Trustees and the University and serves as the legal advisor to the Board of Trustees, the President, and other University administrative officers. He has a dual report to the Board of Trustees and to the President. Tom is responsible for the management of the legal offices on the University's three campuses and divides his time among them. In addition, Tom serves as Legal Counsel to the Alumni Association. His staff includes a Deputy University Counsel and three Campus Counsels (listed below), as well as University attorneys and Legal Fellows. Their practice areas include specializations such as labor and employment, intellectual property, and health care law, as well as more general areas, including contracts, litigation, and real estate. Before coming to the University in 1997, Tom practiced for thirteen years as a commercial litigator at a Chicago law firm. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Illinois and a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University in 1984.</p>

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	<p>Mr. John Alsterda Campus Legal Counsel University of Illinois Chicago (Session III)</p>	<p>John Alsterda began working in the Office of University Counsel in 2007 and was appointed Campus Legal Counsel UIC in 2016. His responsibilities include management of in-house attorneys and professional staff at the Chicago office and supporting oversight of outside counsel retained for all legal matters arising at the University of Illinois Chicago. John is responsible for the delivery of all legal services at UIC and to its off-site locations, including the University's healthcare system. John earned his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law, and received his undergraduate degree from Colorado College.</p>
	<p>Dr. Jimmy Clarke Senior Advisor HCM Strategists, LLC and Trustee for the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors (Session IV)</p>	<p>Jimmy Clarke currently serves as a Senior Adviser at HCM Strategists, a public policy and advocacy consulting firm committed to working with clients that share a passion for reducing disparities and lifting lives through education and training opportunities. He also serves as Vice Chair of the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors. The board is the management body of nine, public universities with a collective enrollment of more than 90,000 students.</p> <p>Jimmy spent twenty years at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he served in a variety of capacities including dean of student personnel and dean of enrollment management. He also served on the staff of the Louisiana Board of Regents for eight years, a portion of which he served in a dual capacity as acting chancellor of the statewide, 42-campus Louisiana Technical College. In these roles, Jimmy developed a deep understanding for policy issues affecting every stakeholder in higher education.</p> <p>A people person at heart, Jimmy views his role as a builder of relationships and trust in an effort to foster collaboration among state policymakers with mutual student success goals. Known for his problem-solving abilities and can-do spirit, Jimmy was tapped to be chief of staff to Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco directly following Hurricane Katrina. He remained in this post throughout the rest of the Governor's term, answering the call to duty during a time of crisis and rebuilding.</p> <p>Jimmy received his bachelor's degree in history from the University of California at Santa Barbara and later earned his master's degree and a Ph.D. in education administration from Louisiana State University's College of Education. He lives with his wife Sandra in Lafayette, Louisiana, and has two children and five grandchildren.</p>
	<p>Ms. Ja'Neane Minor Chief of Staff Illinois Board of Higher Education (Conference MC)</p>	