



ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Sixth Annual Public University Trustee Leadership Conference

Agenda | October 13, 2021

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Mr. John Atkinson, Chair, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Dr. Sekile Nzinga, Chief Equity Officer, Office of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker

9:15 a.m. Session I: The Higher Education Strategic Plan for A Thriving Illinois

Mr. John Atkinson, Chair, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Ms. Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education
Dr. Dan Mahony, President, Southern Illinois University
Dr. Sekile Nzinga, Chief Equity Officer, Office of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker
Ms. Zaidwaynaka “Z” Scott, Esq., President, Chicago State University

Higher education has always been a path to a better future, for individuals, communities, and the entire state of Illinois. However, for too long, African American, Latinx, low-income students, rural students, and working adults have been left behind. The challenge of the next decade is to focus on creating broad paths to a prosperous future for every learner, leader, and community that we engage. A thriving Illinois is one with an inclusive economy with broad prosperity and equitable paths to opportunity for all, especially those facing the greatest barriers. Now is the time to realize this vision through educational paths that drive toward equity, sustainability, and growth. Engage with leaders from higher education and beyond about the strategies for achieving this vision and the role of trustees in building “A Thriving Illinois.”

Related Resources:

[*A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability and Growth*](#)
[*Chicago State University Equity Working Group for Black Student Access and Success in Illinois Higher Education*](#)

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Session II: Supporting Students’ Learning Renewal and Academic Success: Rethinking Developmental Education

Dr. Beth Ingram, Executive Vice President and Provost, Northern Illinois University
Dr. Meera Komarraju, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Dr. Colleen Sexton, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Governors State University

In Illinois and nationally, African American and Latinx students are placed in non-credit, developmental education courses at rates higher than white students. Students in developmental education spend time and money to improve their skills in subjects such as Math and English. This delays their ability to enroll in credit-bearing coursework and, for those who persist, extends their time to degree. The Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board are working with academic leaders and faculty to implement effective

alternatives to traditional developmental education models. This session will feature the work of three public universities to support students' learning recovery and academic success in the COVID era.

Related Resources: [Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board Joint Reports on Developmental Education Reform](#)

12:00 p.m. Break

12:30 p.m. Session III: Guideposts and Guardrails for Illinois Public University Trustees

Mr. Thomas Bearrows, General Counsel, University of Illinois

Mr. John Alsterda, Campus Legal Counsel, University of Illinois Chicago

Boards of Trustees for Illinois' public universities have the responsibility to act collectively to provide sound governance for their institutions, shape strategic direction, and lead by example. This session will present an overview of Trustees' authority, duties and constraints; transparency; ethical guardrails; financial oversight and accountability; and university procurement, including considerations in engaging businesses owned by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities.

1:30 p.m. Session IV: Trustee Peer Networking and Reflections

Engage with fellow trustees in discussion about your work and insights from the conference.

2:00 p.m. Break

2:15 p.m. Session IV: Good Governance: Good Leadership - We Need Both!

Dr. Kenneth "Buzz" Shaw, Board Member, Illinois Board of Higher Education and Chancellor Emeritus, Syracuse University

What makes a Board great? This session will feature an informational presentation on the responsibilities of a Board, guidance for building an effective team relationship with the university president, and strategies for leading institutions through disruptive change.

3:20 p.m. Concluding Remarks and Reflections

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

2021 Conference Speakers



Mr. John Atkinson
Chair
Illinois Board
of Higher Education



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Chief Equity Officer
Office of Illinois Governor
JB Pritzker



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