

**APPROVED
MARCH 5, 2019**

Item #F-3
March 5, 2019

**BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO
MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT (MHEC)**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item recommends that the Illinois Board of Higher Education appoint a Board member to serve on the governing commission of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) by a majority vote of the members of the Board pursuant to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Act (45 ILCS 155/2)

The purpose of MHEC is to provide greater higher education opportunities and services in the Midwestern region, with the aim of furthering regional access to, research in and choice of higher education for the citizens residing in the several states which are parties to this Compact.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education reappoint Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, a current member of this Board, to the Midwestern Higher Education Commission to serve as a representative of the state of Illinois and as an ambassador for the Commission as set forth in the Compact and the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Act (45 ILCS 155/2) for a term scheduled to expire on January 1, 2023.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO
MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT (MHEC)**

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), one of four statutorily-created interstate compacts, was founded in 1991 and is a nonprofit regional organization serving Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. MHEC activities are driven by four strategic priorities that are closely aligned with the *Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success*:

- Expand postsecondary *opportunity* and success.
- Promote innovative approaches to improving institutional and system *productivity*.
- Improve *affordability* to students and states.
- Enhance *connectivity* between higher education and the workplace.

Each member state appoints five individuals to a 60-member governing body of legislators, higher education leaders, and governors' representatives. Illinois commissioners are Representative Kelly Burke, chair of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee; Senator Pat McGuire, chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee; Alice Marie Jacobs, member of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE); Suzanne Morris, member of the Community College Board; and a vacancy due to the retirement of Karen Hunter Anderson, retired executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. The roles and responsibilities of the commissioners are provided in Appendix A.

One of the five members representing the state of Illinois is a member of the Board of Higher Education appointed by majority vote of the members of the Board pursuant to the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Act. (45 ILCS 155/2) The term of the current appointee expired on January 1, 2019, and the Commission has asked the Board to appoint a member to the governing commission of the MHEC. There is no limit on the number of terms that a commissioner may serve.

The adoption of the following resolution is recommended:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby resolves:

That the Illinois Board of Higher Education reappoint Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, a current member of this Board, to the Midwestern Higher Education Commission to serve as a representative of the state of Illinois and as an ambassador for the Commission as set forth in the Compact and the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Act (45 ILCS 155/2) for a term scheduled to expire on January 1, 2023.

Appendix A Commissioner Roles & Responsibilities

1. The role of the commissioner is a two-fold responsibility:
 - a. To the Compact as a whole; and
 - b. To the constituents served by the Compact.
2. Commissioners are expected to attend the Compact's annual meeting in November and other meetings of committees to which they are assigned. The location of annual meetings rotates among the twelve member states of the Compact. Two commissioners from each state serve on the Executive Committee, which acts for the commission in the interim between annual meetings and oversees the development of the Compact's short-and long-range activities. The Executive Committee meets in June and November. Other committees are appointed to oversee programs or special initiatives and meet by conference call when possible.
3. Commissioners will have a general knowledge and understanding of public and private higher education trends in their state and in the Midwest.
4. Commissioners will develop an understanding of MHEC governance, programs, services and policy.
5. Commissioners will work to build regional partnerships for effective and efficient access to, and quality of, higher education in their state and in the Midwest.
6. Commissioners are expected to act as an ambassador for MHEC and will identify opportunities to increase visibility for MHEC within their states, regionally and nationally and disseminate information about MHEC's programs and services wherever possible.
7. In conjunction with the MHEC president, Commissioners will pursue annual meetings with their governor and other state leaders to report to them on MHEC programs and activities, and to solicit their ideas.
8. Commissioners will promote legislation and policies on a non-partisan basis to encourage use of MHEC programs and services within their state.
9. Commissioners will aid in ensuring timely payment of their state's annual member obligations.
10. Commissioners will be available to Compact staff for consultation.