

**APPROVED**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

## **RESOLUTION**

We, the members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), extend our appreciation to following members of the IBHE. They deserve our gratitude for their time and wise counsel on the many issues before us.

Tom Cross, past IBHE board chair and former Illinois House Republican Leader, brought bipartisan credibility and skill as a negotiator to IBHE. Currently a senior consultant with Culloton Strategies, LLC., he led the board during the budget impasse and took on that unenviable task with determination and optimism. Before serving in the Illinois General Assembly for 22 years, he was a Kendall County prosecutor. He is also a distinguished fellow at Aurora University.

Jay Bergman was originally appointed in December 2007, and the board greatly appreciates his 12 years of service. He is president and CEO of Petco Petroleum Corporation of Hinsdale. A graduate of Joliet Junior College and Illinois State University, Jay served on the JJC Alumni board as president, on the ISU Board of Trustees, and was the elder statesman at IBHE. He is to be commended for his institutional knowledge and vast insight into higher education.

Santos Rivera is a champion of underrepresented communities. Santos was appointed in 2010, and has been invaluable on many issues, but especially on how to better recruit and retain underrepresented students. He is an emeritus senior executive at Northeastern Illinois University, where he was a student. Santos' contributions to higher education, as well as to equality and diversity, are noted.

Jack Thomas, past president of Western Illinois University, has been an advocate on behalf of university presidents across the state of Illinois. A strong proponent of returning to prior funding levels and of protecting our regional universities, Jack used his experience of hardships post-budget impasse to work to increase funding and support for higher education.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education*  
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