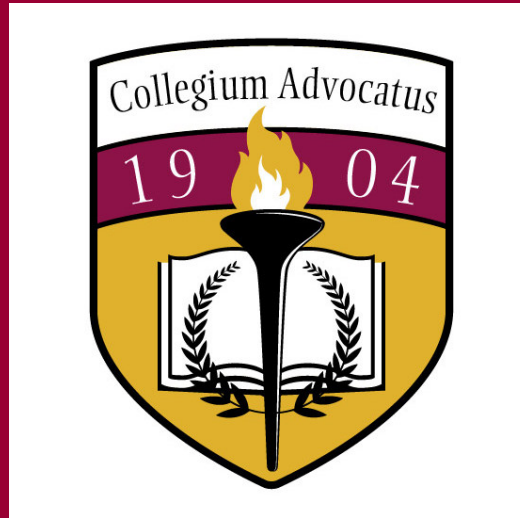


# The Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges & Universities



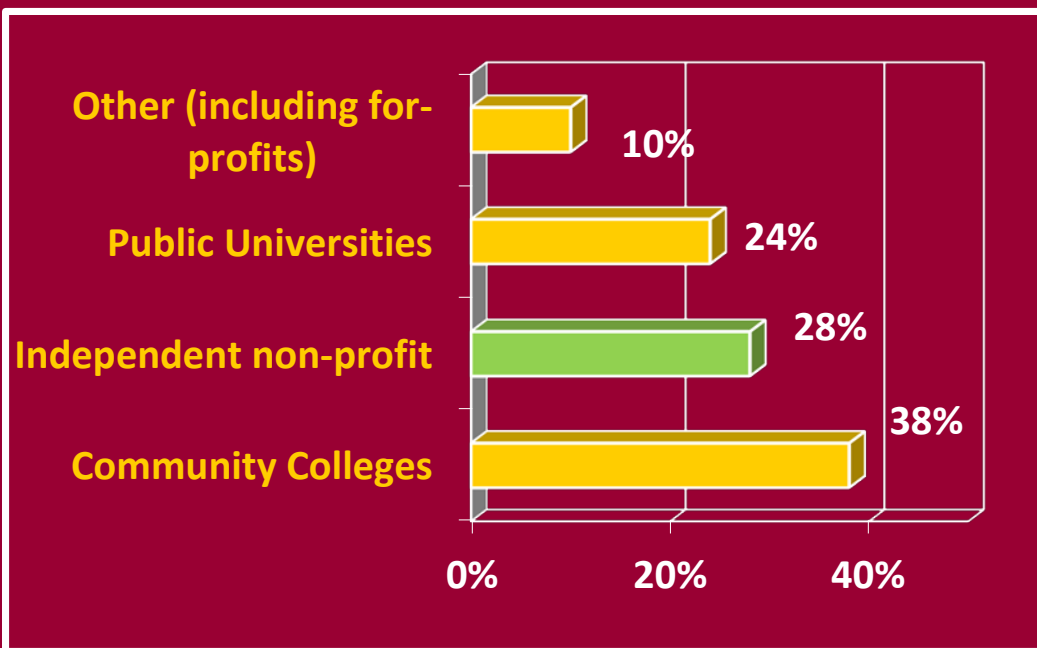
**Presentation to  
Illinois Board of Higher Education  
Kennedy-King College  
January 21, 2026**

# The Federation

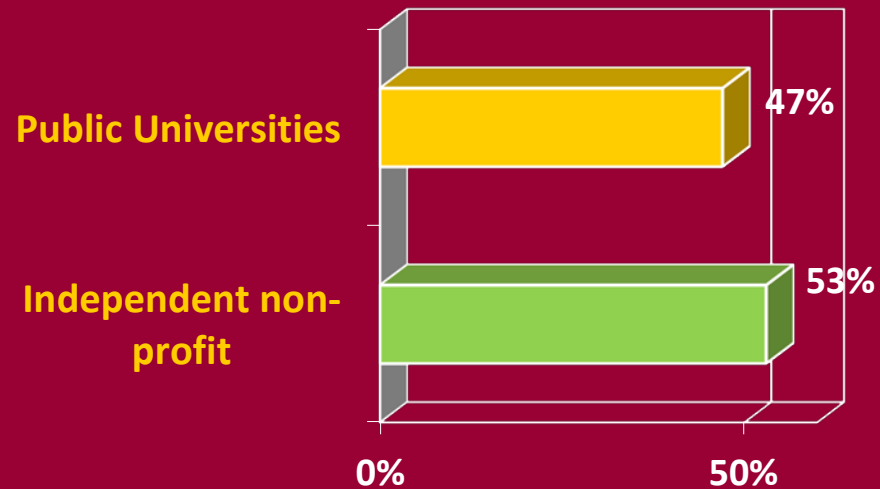
- The oldest private college association in the country, the Federation was established in 1904 by a small group of private college presidents.
- The association today represents 55 independent not for profit colleges throughout Illinois, diverse in size, geography and mission.
- While originally an informal group, the association has been professionally staffed since 1965



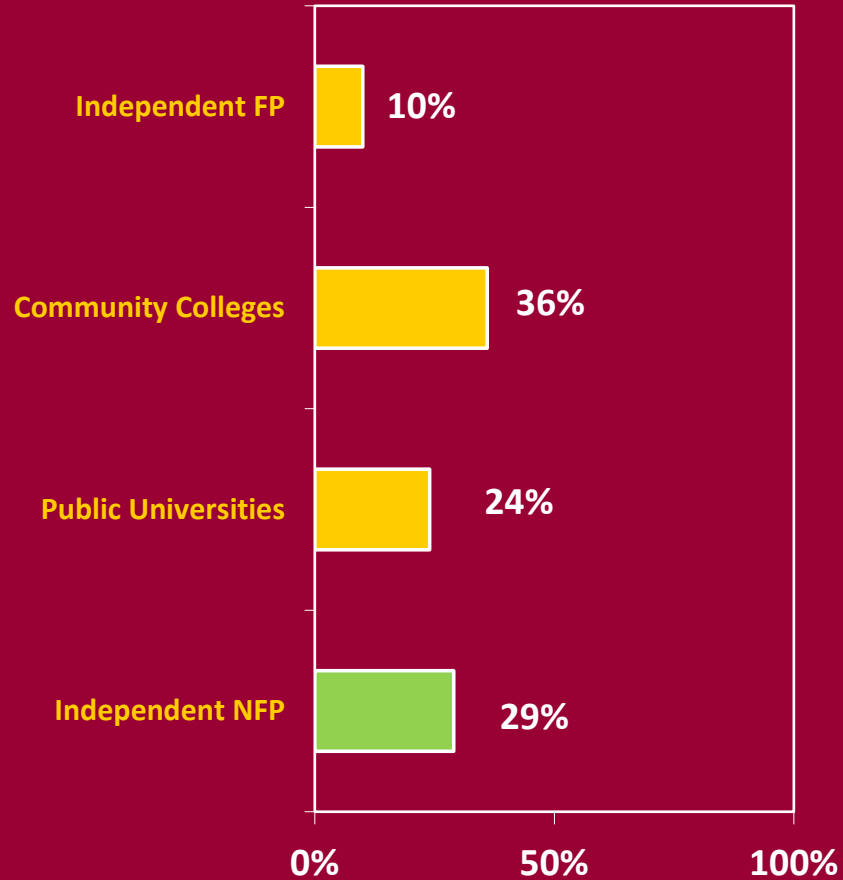
# Illinois Fall Headcount Enrollment by Sector



# Illinois Fall Headcount 4-Year Enrollment by Sector



# Overall Percentage of Degrees Conferred

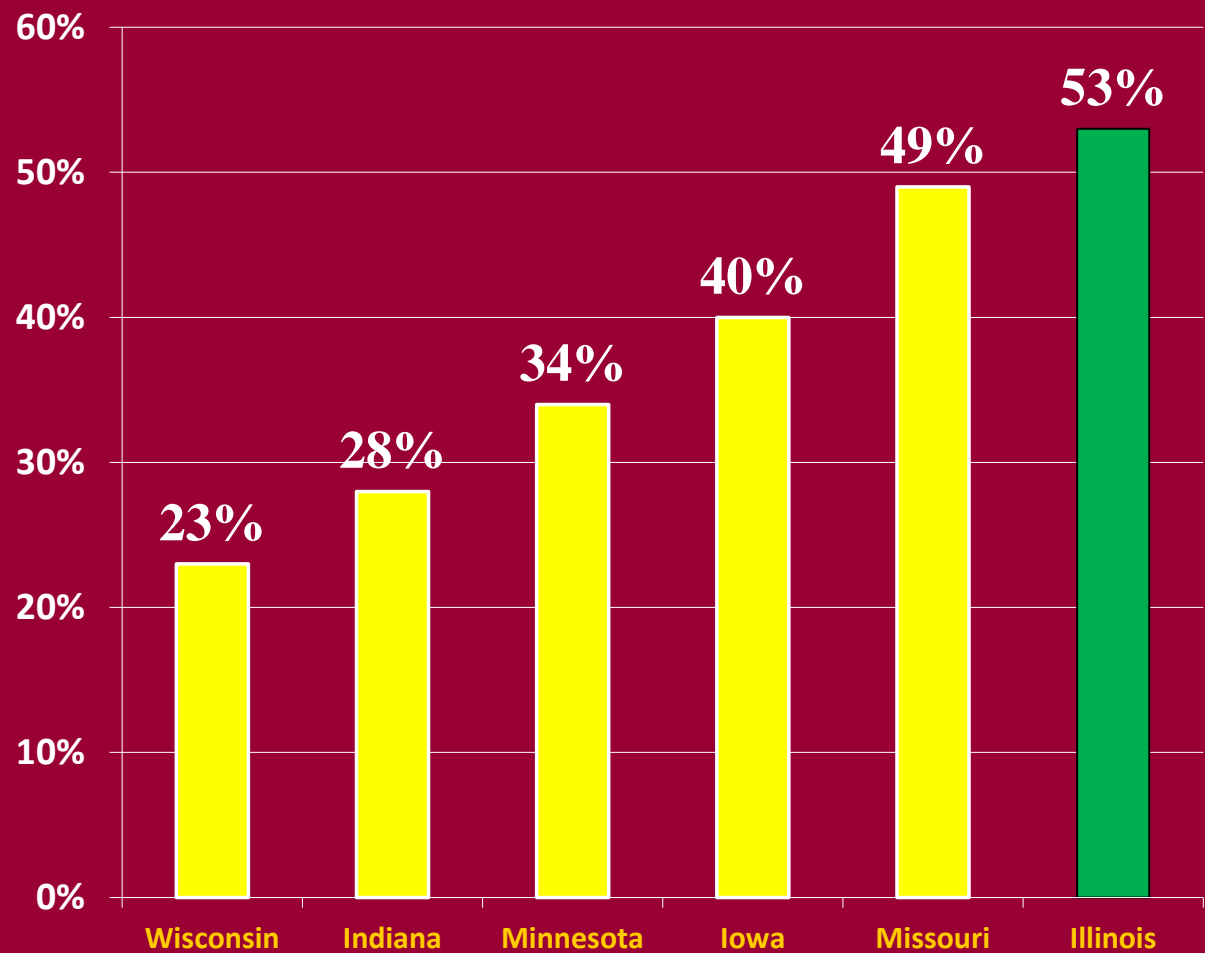


# Independent College and University Four-Year Degrees Conferred in State Priority Areas

- **Education – 56%**
- **Health Professions – 62%**
- **Business – 65%**
- **Math and Stats – 50%**
- **Science Technologies – 65%**
- **Biomedical – 52%**
- **Engineering – 31%**
- **Computer/IT – 48%**
- **Communication/Journalism – 57%**
- **Public Adm./Social Services – 56%**



# Proportion of Four-Year Students Enrolled at Independent NFP Colleges and Universities by State



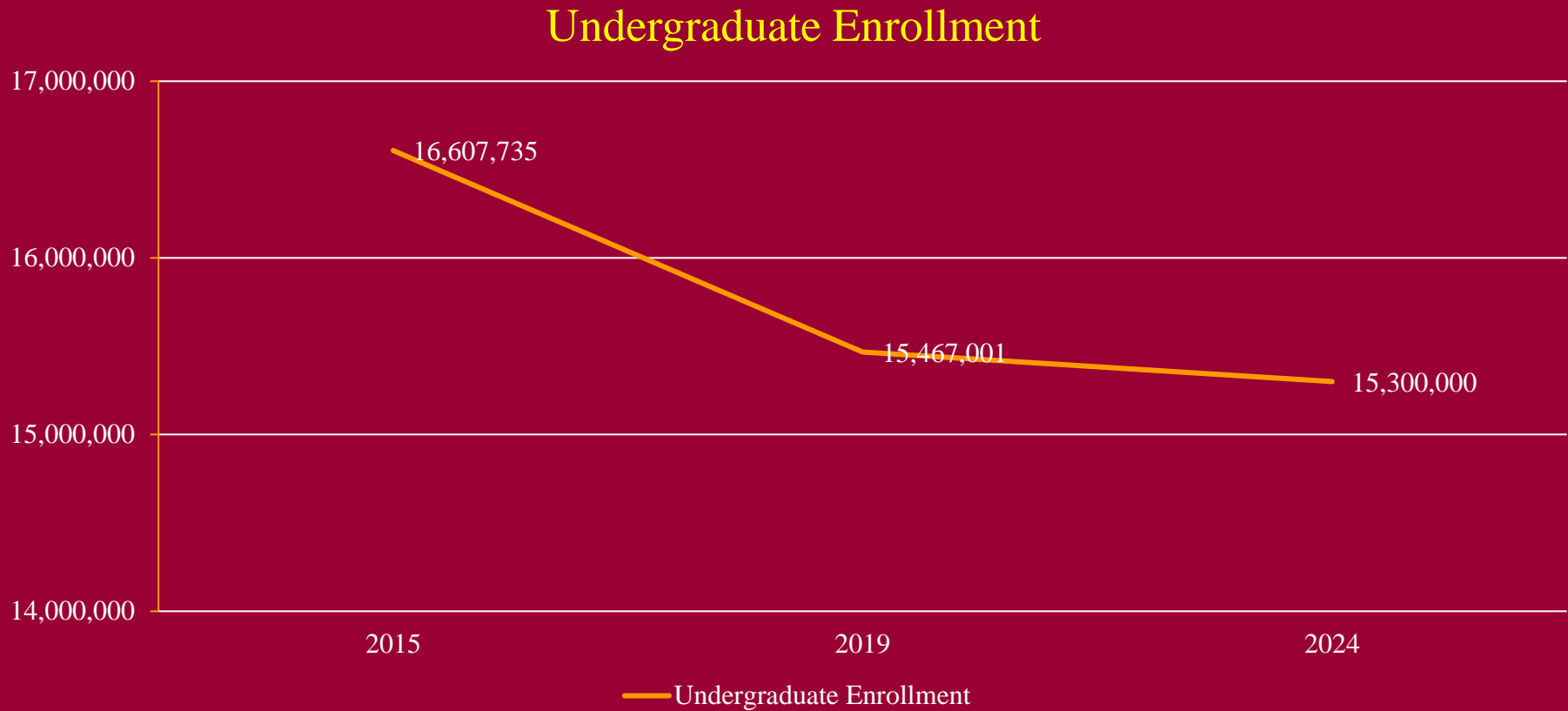
# History of Illinois Higher Education Policy and Independent Colleges and Universities

- Independent Illinois higher education has an important long history of quality, diversity and significant degree production in key areas vital to Illinois' future, today enrolling more total students of color than our public universities.
- The following charts demonstrate why our state needs to develop and maintain policy that includes and encourages utilizing private higher education in union with public higher education towards achieving state goals.



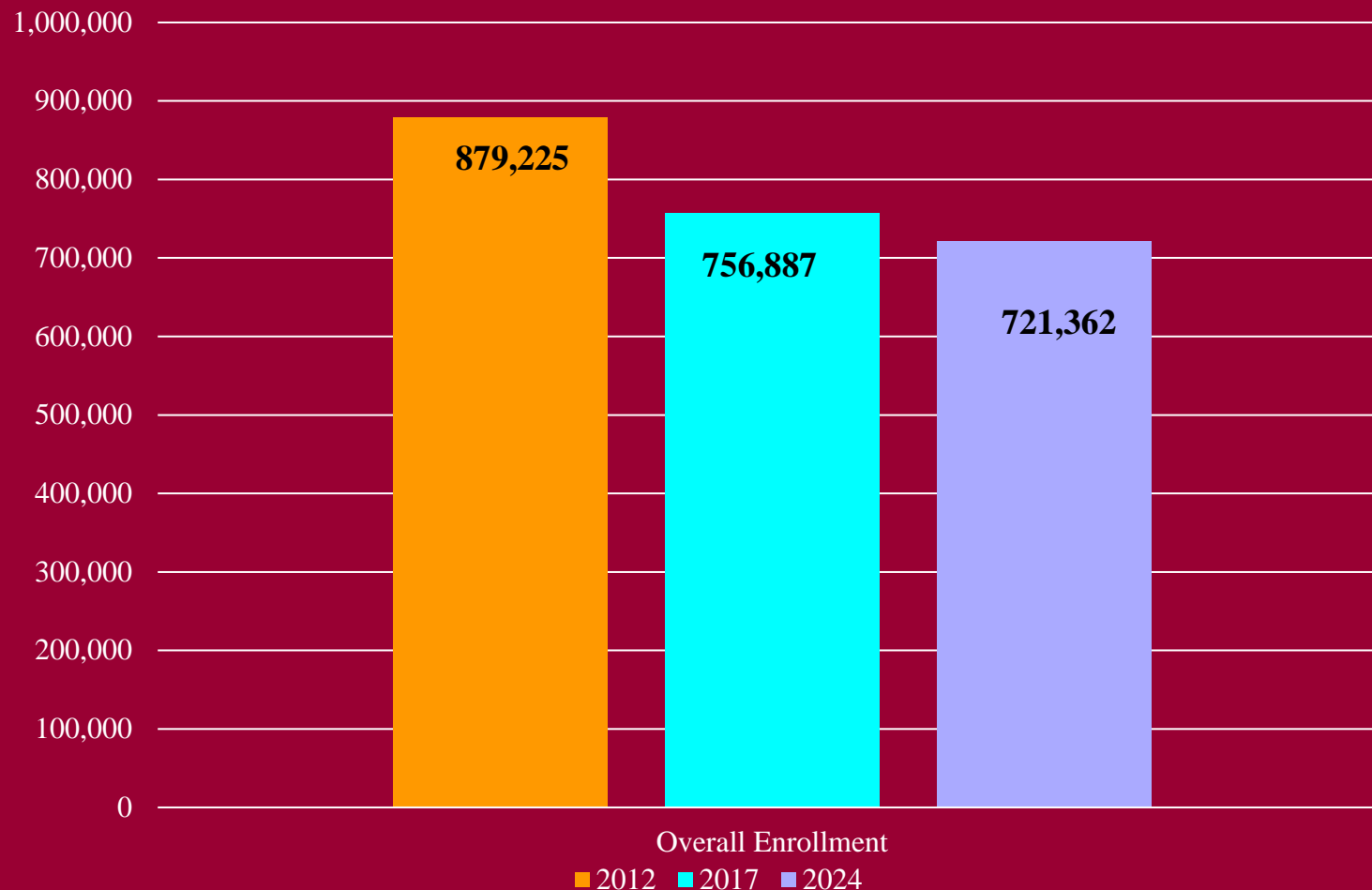


# Undergraduate Student Enrollment Dropped Nationally from 2015 to 2024



# Structural and Demographic Challenges in Illinois Higher Education

- Illinois higher education enrollment has decreased by 200,000 students over the past 12 years, down 18%



# Structural and Demographic Challenges in Illinois Higher Education

- **Our natural pipeline of in-state high school graduates is trending south also over the next 10 years, making the competition for students even more extreme.**
- **High school graduates leaving Illinois to go to out of state four-year institutions remains alarming: 46.8% in 2019 and likely similar in recent post-pandemic years.**
- **Growing and persistent drumbeat about the value of college, the need for college, and a negative narrative about the role of colleges and universities.**



# Structural and Demographic Challenges in Illinois Higher Education

- Illinois continues to be a big net exporter of students, and without state investment and state planning, moving the needle on this condition will be impossible. Students leaving are often those with the financial ability to make that decision, which is not as true for the students that remain in state.



# Independent College and Universities Contribute Mightily to Illinois Economy

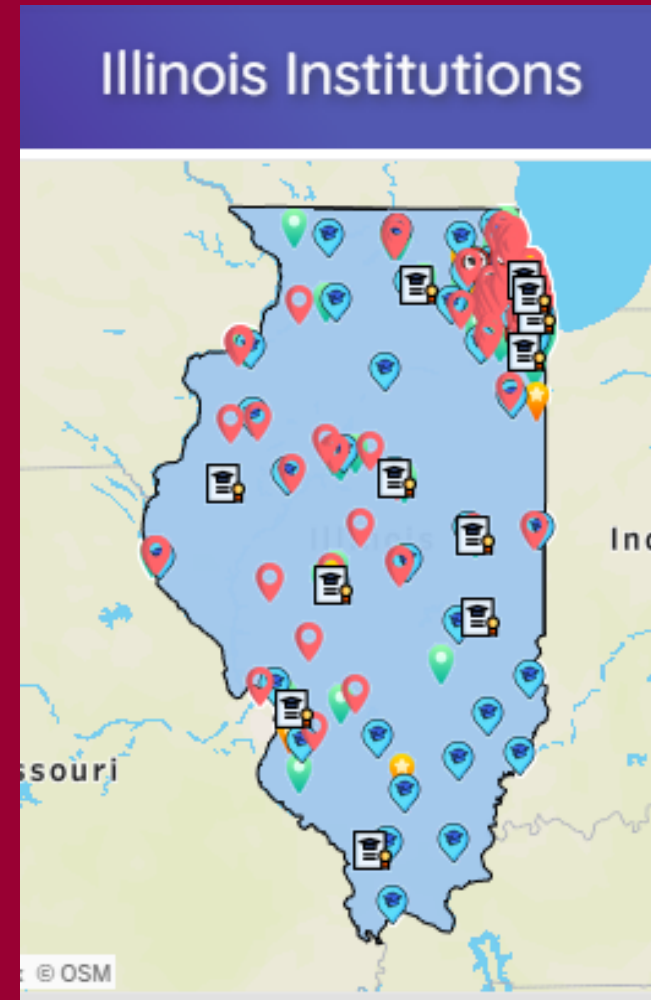
- Independent colleges & universities drive local economies
  - Employ 62,000 statewide
  - Create \$22 billion in economic activity
- Student investment draws outside investment
  - Over \$1 billion in Institutional Aid
  - Over \$1 billion in Pell Grants
  - Loan Revenue
  - Tuition Revenue
  - Hotel Revenue
  - Local Businesses

# Independent College and Universities Contribute Mightily to Illinois Economy (2024)

- **Jacksonville** - Illinois College contribute almost 500 jobs and \$72 million to the Illinois economy
- **Eureka** – Eureka College, 150 jobs and \$33 million to the Illinois economy
- **Peoria** - Bradley University, 1,150 jobs and \$305 million to the Illinois economy
- **Bloomington** – Illinois Wesleyan, 470 jobs and \$127 million to the Illinois economy
- **Quincy** – Quincy University, 280 jobs and \$68 million to the Illinois economy

# If you include all public and private colleges and universities, the impact is exponential

- Colleges & universities together throughout our state:
  - Employ 175,000 statewide
  - Create \$55 billion in economic activity annually
- Create a \$25 to \$1 return on state investment, making our graduates and the state more productive and competitive on a global scale



# The Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges & Universities



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