

12/1/2020

Renique Kersh [REDACTED]

To: Ginger Ostro

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm sending this note to encourage you to consider broadening your consideration of student success to include engagement in undergraduate research as you work to develop the IBHE strategic plan. Undergraduate research is considered a high impact practice, which research has shown, positively impacts student retention and academic success. This is particularly true for underrepresented students as these experiences increase critical thinking skills, academic confidence and analytical skills. Further, when students connect with faculty early in their academic career, this leads to increased connection to the university and provides students with important social and cultural capital. I encourage you to include members of the Illinois Innovation Network in strategic planning discussions and most importantly, I encourage you to include the voices and stories of student's whose lives have been positively influenced by their involvement in undergraduate research experiences. Stories like [this one](#), are important to consider and to include in discussions about the future of higher education in Illinois and the types of experiences that are important to empowering and preparing students to be leaders and scholars. Thank you for your consideration. I've included an article below that may provide some context on the importance of high impact practices and the connection with positive academic outcomes.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED582014.pdf>

[Assessing Underserved Students' Engagement in High-Impact Practices - ERIC](#)

Assessing Underserved Students' Engagement in High-Impact Practices with an assessing equity in high-impact practices toolkit developed by estelamarabensimon, aliciacdowd, and debbiehansonofthecenterforurbaneducationatthe

[files.eric.ed.gov](https://files.eric.ed.gov)

Best,

Renique Kersh, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice Provost for Student Engagement and Success  
Faculty Associate, Counseling, Adult and Higher Education

[REDACTED]  
215D Altgeld Hall  
DeKalb, IL 60115

Public comments on strategic plan vision core principles and priorities received in response to the October 26, 2020 and December 8, 2020 IBHE meetings on strategic planning.

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"Fight for the things that you are about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you." -RBG  
"It won't be easy, but it will ALWAYS be worth it. You are stronger than you think." -Jess Sims, Peloton



**Northern Illinois University**  
*Your Future. Our Focus.*

12/8/2020

Wang, Lichang [REDACTED]

To: Ginger Ostro

Dear Ginger,

Good morning from Lichang!

I am the representative of FAC IBHE for Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC).

It was great participating the session on strategic plan you presented to FAC IBHE on September 18.

I submitted the Faculty survey (4 questions to provide their thoughts on the strategic plan) to FAC IBHE and was told that I should also submit it to you directly.

Attached is the survey results from SIUC faculty.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Lichang

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Lichang Wang

Professor

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General questions regarding the IBHE strategic plan on higher education

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# Q1 Why is higher education important to you? and What do you hope a strategic state-wide master plan for higher education might accomplish?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

## General questions regarding the IBHE strategic plan on higher education

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I am a faculty member and have seen enrollment decline drastically in the last 6 years. Investment in Illinois Higher education needs to increase. Students are going out of state	10/26/2020 10:01 AM
2	Eliminate the business-driven presuppositions about actionable knowledge and commoditization that dominate even the most contemplative of modern university departments. In other words, stop treating higher-ed as the workforce development arm of a business community too lazy, cheap, and incompetent to do and pay for its own job training.	10/22/2020 3:25 PM
3	Better funding and guidance to keep the state universities competitive with the private schools, especially the online ones	10/22/2020 10:05 AM
4	Important : to improve understanding about general matters and increase standard of living. Hope: easy accessibility, affordability	10/21/2020 2:58 PM
5	Education is a public good that drives the economy and serves as an equalizer for differences amongst those born into different socioeconomic situations. The latter assumes that all have equal access to higher education. Accomplish - an affordable (state supported), high quality education for those that seek it.	10/21/2020 1:53 PM
6	In the future, Higher Ed is what's going to prepare all. Basic education is not enough in the future marketplace. The state-wise plan should focus more on technical skills.	10/21/2020 1:31 PM
7	It is important to me as a university faculty member, and as a parent of two high school students.	10/21/2020 10:39 AM
8	Higher education breeds success at both individual and social levels. An educated population is economically, creatively, and socially productive. This is a herd effect --- one educated person is almost no better off than if they were less educated. A community with a critical mass of educated people flourishes. A state-wide strategic plan should enable the states IHE's to do each what they're good at, should promote systemic excellence and inclusion for all.	10/21/2020 10:24 AM
9	Higher education is important to me because of its positive impact on people's lives. College degrees are practically required for a career. Higher education instills well-rounded skill sets into students and employees. Higher education produces research that benefits all. Higher education institutions have a significant impact on local and state economies, especially institutions in rural areas. Strong universities and colleges help counter the outmigration of Illinois young adults. I hope a strategic plan would accomplish raising the prestige and public opinion of Illinois' higher education institutions.	10/21/2020 10:20 AM
10	High quality education is important to the growth, prosperity and proper functioning of society.	10/21/2020 9:45 AM
11	Higher education is nothing less than the key to democracy and equality. The strategic plan should address the best way to use limited state resources.	10/21/2020 9:25 AM
12	I am employed by higher education and want it to be strong	10/21/2020 9:10 AM
13	Higher education is my culture, ethnicity, and religion. I would hope such a plan will stabilize funding issues across state campuses.	10/21/2020 8:56 AM

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14	Higher Education is critical to developing the next generation of professionals.	10/21/2020 8:33 AM
15	It changed my life, and a master plan which takes into account the benefits of regional institutions with slightly differing approaches would benefit the entire state.	10/21/2020 8:06 AM
16	We need talented and highly educated people to make new innovation and improve the life of the people	10/20/2020 10:43 PM
17	Higher education is the only avenue for some individuals to be exposed to new ways of thinking and to escape a lifetime of poverty. A master plan could help with uniformity and consistency across our state.	10/20/2020 8:43 PM
18	Higher education allows people to grow and expand their horizons. It trains people how to think clearly and rigorously. It supports curiosity and provides an adventure in learning. Oh yes, and it also trains people for jobs that allow them to support themselves and contribute to society.	10/20/2020 7:36 PM
19	It means the future of Illinois. It would allow the higher ed to create new situations to educate students	10/20/2020 5:50 PM

## Q2 What questions do you think the strategic plan should address?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	How can we keep our students in-state? How can we attract students from other states? New funding models for higher education in IL.	10/26/2020 10:01 AM
2	How to eliminate the conflict between institutional survival (i.e., keeping paying students in classrooms) and a culture of learning (i.e., the possibility, nay likelihood, that many students will fail classes, and sometimes not get a degree). In other words, questions about the radical disconnect between the institutional imperatives of the "completion agenda" and "student success" movements and the actual work of learning (which does not admit of such facile student-affairs support solutions).	10/22/2020 3:25 PM
3	What programs should be offered, based on enrollement and graduation rates. Schools should have more ability to sundown programs that are not utilized.	10/22/2020 10:05 AM
4	current pitfalls and how to overcome it	10/21/2020 2:58 PM
5	How to increase enrollment or how to consolidate the system to survive with flatline or reduced enrollment.	10/21/2020 1:53 PM
6	Is the student ready	10/21/2020 1:31 PM
7	Cost of 4-yr education; and penalty for lower income parents who do manage to save money for college (529's) and	10/21/2020 10:39 AM
8	What level of public investment is necessary to maintain an adequate state higher education system? What additional levels would enable a return to excellence as a system? What would systemic excellence look like? How can prospective students statewide be connected with the programs statewide that would best meet their needs?	10/21/2020 10:24 AM

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9	The plan should address stabilizing budget and preventing cuts. I'm not sure how much more Illinois universities can take.	10/21/2020 10:20 AM
10	How to provide high quality education that is accessible to all.	10/21/2020 9:45 AM
11	Better transfer opportunities from community colleges to 4 year schools.	10/21/2020 9:25 AM
12	How to keep tuition comparable to neighboring states, how to give students confidence a degree from a state institution will be valuable for them.	10/21/2020 9:10 AM
13	Funding. Individual campuses supporting low enrollment/low graduate programs at the expense of growing and productive programs.	10/21/2020 8:56 AM
14	Making sure state universities are well-funded, so they can retain faculty.	10/21/2020 8:33 AM
15	Increase collaboration among institutions, and have specific majors focused at each. SIU could be an excellent training facility for BS degree holders in agriculture, forestry, animal science, wildlife, etc.	10/21/2020 8:06 AM
16	Overhaul the education system, it's too expensive , work toward free education for all. Knowledge was never mean to be sold	10/20/2020 10:43 PM
17	Are we doing enough state-wide to be visible to our high school students? Are we promoting all educational avenues/programs/options for incoming students? How can higher education become more accessible and affordable to the poorest counties in our regions? Are we doing all that we can to promote and demand diversity and inclusion?	10/20/2020 8:43 PM
18	How do we ensure delivery of the highest quality education we can provide? What are the needs of the community that we can train our graduates to address?	10/20/2020 7:36 PM
19	How to fund higher education?	10/20/2020 5:50 PM
20	Continue to make it easier for students who graduate from CC obtain a BS degree from a University in 2 years.	10/20/2020 5:23 PM

### Q3 What does success in the higher education system look like 5 years from now? 10 years from now?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Double our current enrollment figures. New sources of funding.	10/26/2020 10:01 AM
2	A decline in student numbers, the elimination of all business and education colleges, paring back of most engineering offerings, and a return to pure, public research independent of its technological applications. Also, the elimination of any administrative position that pays more than \$150,000 and its replacement with a five-year service post from within the faculty.	10/22/2020 3:25 PM
3	Universities that are more streamlined to adapt to the consumers needs and wants. Getting away from the "this is what we offer, take it or leave it mentality"	10/22/2020 10:05 AM
4	increase in number of individuals with higher education, success in their field, improved SOL, educated parents hopefully with focus more on education the children	10/21/2020 2:58 PM

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5	A thriving public, higher ed network providing IL and the world with a work force made of wellrounded leaders making contributions to society (economic, arts, sciences, etc)..	10/21/2020 1:53 PM
6	5 years: not much change expected. 10 years: students would be using basic programming skills in workplace.	10/21/2020 1:31 PM
7	Free state tuition for all families, both 2-year and 4-yr programs, within 5 years.	10/21/2020 10:39 AM
8	Since Illinois is one of the top five states by population and by GDP, its higher education system should compete on that level. In ten years the proportion of Illinois residents with bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees should be in the top ten percent of states in the nation. The proportion of students graduating Illinois high schools earning bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees should be in the top ten percent of states in the nation. Total federal research funding to state universities in Illinois should be in the top ten percent of states in the nation. The three state institutions with the greatest number of Highly Cited scholars, when compared with the top three institutions in other state systems, should be in the top ten percent. The proportion of H-1B-eligible jobs in Illinois filled by graduates of universities located in Illinois should be in the top ten percent of states in the nation.	10/21/2020 10:24 AM
9	Stabilized budgets and growing universities.	10/21/2020 10:20 AM
10	More students have more access to high quality education without crushing debt.	10/21/2020 9:45 AM
11	increased engagement in state and local government, and equality of opportunity.	10/21/2020 9:25 AM
12	Vibrant universities	10/21/2020 9:10 AM
13	I wish I knew. My future is indelibly linked to Higher ed and I have no idea what we will look like 5 or 10 years out.	10/21/2020 8:56 AM
14	Similar to now, but with some online learning options.	10/21/2020 8:33 AM
15	Increasing numbers of students. If it ain't growing it's dying.	10/21/2020 8:06 AM
16	More and more people complete college degree and masters. More new research AMD innovation	10/20/2020 10:43 PM
17	I believe this success is best judged by the continued support and admiration of our graduates. Do they promote higher education? Are they proud of what higher education has provided to them? Do they return to higher education and service to universities?	10/20/2020 8:43 PM
18	A university where the primary focus is learning. Faculty should be respected and supported more than administration. Students should have environments to make up deficits in their skills to allow them to pursue their dreams.	10/20/2020 7:36 PM
19	A healthy University system	10/20/2020 5:50 PM

## Q4 How do we close equity gaps in higher education?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 1

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	By ceasing to model the institution on the very entities that perpetuation racial, gender, and income inequalities: U.S. corporation. So long as a managerial caste exists (and it has more power in higher-ed than any modern business), any attempts to close equity gaps will be futile.	10/22/2020 3:25 PM

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2	This is more of a problem at the high school level. Students from some schools are not prepared for college. This makes the transisiton even harder and students are embaarrassed to ask for help.	10/22/2020 10:05 AM
3	accessibility and affordabilty are the key. More oppotunities to minority	10/21/2020 2:58 PM
4	Affordable education - state support of public institutions is an equalizer. Maybe this requires fewer state schools to allow limited resources to be maximized. Note that fewer schools doesn't mean one giant UIUC.	10/21/2020 1:53 PM
5	Focus on K-12 education. Prepare kids before they enter college. Equity in oppotunities and preparing them.	10/21/2020 1:31 PM
6	Free tuition all families.	10/21/2020 10:39 AM
7	1. Recognize higher education as a public good and heavily subsidize the expenses of students willing and able to pursue it. 2. Incentivize system-wide success. If outreach work at WIU and successful attendance at Blackhawk lead to a BS from NIU and a Ph.D. from SIU, everybody on that list should win in a tangible way, instead of having to compete for the credit and future allocations. 3. Close equity gaps in K-12 education. Some of the equity problems we've got can't be fixed once a student is an 18-year-old high school graduate lacking middleschool knowledge of math and reading. 4. Invest (and yes, it really will take more money) in a diverse higher education faculty. This includes recruitment, development, and retention. It also includes using industry best practices on leave, flexible work assignments, tenure timelines, irrelevancy of pay and leave history to new hires, and generous early-career professional development support. It further involves hiring at all: no improvement in faculty demographics will happen in a department that is not hiring.	10/21/2020 10:24 AM
8	I'm not sure. This is not my area of expertise.	10/21/2020 10:20 AM
9	Start by funding schools throughout the state and at all levels more equitably.	10/21/2020 9:45 AM
10	By starting before kindergarten, and paying early childhood educators more.	10/21/2020 9:25 AM
11	I'm not exactly sure what you mean by equity gaps (of students, faculty, etc.)? I would use all the money currently given to committees to study this and promote more equity and instead use it to give students scholarships that will help make things more equitable or the same with faculty.	10/21/2020 9:10 AM
12	For Higher ed, all we can do is reduce costs. For many students experiencing equity gaps, they are too behind academically to succeed at a research university. Illinois needs to revamp k-12 and reinsert standards of learning and id skill benchmarks before advancement to the next grade.	10/21/2020 8:56 AM
13	Hire/retain faculty of color, fund schools to provide affordable access, reach out to high school students.	10/21/2020 8:33 AM
14	Not with a wide brush, needs to be local and mission directed	10/21/2020 8:06 AM
15	Remove the money barrier. Come out of corporate mind. Rethink that this is our future and when you sold them, they will have to recoup by any means	10/20/2020 10:43 PM
16	Early mentoring programs in our schools and regions with the lowest socioeconomic impacts. Increasing visibility in our high schools, early recruiting. Increased financial aid, scholarships, or work-study programs for students and aspiring students.	10/20/2020 8:43 PM

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17	1. Hire and promote more faculty from under represented groups. 2. Provide support for students who are struggling (regardless of what group they are from). 3. Create an environment where differences in people are welcomed and celebrated.	10/20/2020 7:36 PM
18	Keep going	10/20/2020 5:50 PM
19	Spell out what the gap is - give a target goal to narrow such gap	10/20/2020 5:23 PM

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1/11/21



To: Ginger Ostro

Dear Executive Director Ostro, I am writing to encourage you to broaden the definition of student success to include engagement in undergraduate and graduate research, as you work to develop the IBHE strategic plan. Undergraduate and graduate research is a high-impact educational experience that supports student retention and academic success. As a proud alumna of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (BS magna cum laude in Psychology, 1986), I benefitted tremendously from the research culture on our campus. I did a bachelor's honors thesis with Professor Christopher Wickens which led to a successful career in academia and research management. I would like to see all students have the opportunity to engage in high-quality research experiences with faculty mentors. And certainly for graduate students, by definition they are learning to become independent scholars and thinkers, and all of them who will deposit an MS thesis or a PhD dissertation are going to engage in research. Thank you for your consideration of broadening your definition of student success to include engagement in undergraduate and graduate research and for supporting higher education in Illinois. Sincerely,

Patricia Jones

1/11/2020

[REDACTED]

To: Ginger Ostro

Dear Executive Director Ostro, I am writing to encourage you to consider broadening your definition of student success to include engagement in undergraduate and graduate research, as you work to develop the IBHE strategic plan. Undergraduate and graduate research is a high-impact educational experience that supports student retention and academic success. This is particularly true for underrepresented students, as these experiences increase critical thinking and analytical skills and academic confidence. Additionally, research experiences benefit students when they are able to connect with faculty early in their academic career. These connections can lead to deeper involvement in the university, and provide students with an important support structure as they move through their academic career. Stories like this one (<https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/6206/693512>) are important to consider and to include in discussions about the future of higher education in Illinois and the types of experiences that are vital to empowering and preparing students to be leaders and scholars. Thank you for your consideration of broadening your definition of student success to include engagement in undergraduate and graduate research and for supporting higher education in Illinois. Sincerely,

Laurie Johnson

1/11/2020

[REDACTED]

To: Ginger Ostro

Dear Executive Director Ostro, I am writing to encourage you to consider broadening your definition of student success to include engagement in undergraduate and graduate research, as you work to develop the IBHE strategic plan. Undergraduate and graduate research is a high-impact educational experience that supports student retention and academic success. This is particularly true for underrepresented students, as these experiences increase critical thinking and analytical skills and academic confidence. Additionally, research experiences benefit students when they are able to connect with faculty early in their academic career. These connections can lead to deeper involvement in the university, and provide students with an important support structure as they move through their academic career. Stories like this one (<https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/6206/693512>) are important to consider and to include in discussions about the future of higher education in Illinois and the types of experiences that are vital to empowering and preparing students to be leaders and scholars. Thank you for your consideration of broadening your definition of student success to include engagement in undergraduate and graduate research and for supporting higher education in Illinois. Sincerely,

Jeffrey Woods

1/24/2020

**From:** Jordan Cooper [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 7:50:30 PM

**Subject:** [External] Note

Good evening. I hope all is well. Please require academic scholarship recipients from colleges to be part of at least one research study in their major. Athletic scholarship recipients are part of research studies for sports and academic scholarship recipients should not be excluded since their school depends mostly on them for revenue. Let me know what you think.

Jordan

Sent from my iPhone

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