

## Applegate's Update

The pressure point of no funding for higher education has finally taken center stage at the General Assembly. Last Thursday, January 28, The General Assembly passed a funding bill for MAP and community colleges, [SB 2043](#), which can now be sent to the Governor, who has stated he will not support it.

SB 2043 does NOT include funding for the public universities. Despite that, the public universities did not oppose the Democratic leaders' efforts to get MAP and community college funding approved. The General Assembly Republicans said they could not vote for SB 2043 because the funds are not there. An alternative was proposed ([HB 4521](#) & [HB 4539](#)) that would allow the Governor to sweep funds to provide funding for all of higher education. The Senate Republicans have introduced similar companion bills ([SB 2338](#) & [SB 2349](#)). Funding levels would be based upon the Fiscal Year 2015 adjusted appropriations, and include \$373 million (100%) for MAP, Community Colleges would see a 10% reduction, and Public Universities would be cut 20%.

None of these funding proposals reflect the IBHE Fiscal Year 2016 budget recommendations which called for basically flat funding for higher education in 2016. IBHE has proposed similar funding for 2017 as the foundation level needed to enable the state to reach its 2025 goal to have 60 % of its workforce with a quality college credential. Nearly \$1.1 billion in inflation adjusted dollars have been cut from the higher education budget since 2000. We cannot reach our goal with a continuing cut strategy. Given that two-thirds of all new and replacement jobs in Illinois going forward will require a college credential, the goal is essential to Illinois' economic success.

IBHE is working to engage stakeholders in the development of the "Illinois Higher Education Compact" endorsed by the IBHE Board and developed in collaboration with higher education leaders. The Compact would obligate state leaders to establish a stable, growing base for higher education funding over the next three years in exchange for system commitments to improve efficiency and effectiveness as well as student success outcomes. To date response from stakeholders has been completely supportive.

IBHE has done a comprehensive analysis of the comparative cost of Illinois higher education and the factors driving those costs over the last decade to focus efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness as part of the Compact effort. It has secured the partnership of the National Governors Association (NGA) to support the compact work. NGA has done similar work in other states.

As has been the case throughout this unprecedented budget process, uncertainty still remains. However, there is a heightened interest and attention to the plight of Illinois' college students, and the precarious financial situation the Illinois higher education institutions are experiencing due to no state funding for eight months. Only yesterday Chicago State University declared a state of "financial exigency;" a drastic measure seldom used in higher education to address its financial crises. Eastern Illinois University also announced major staffing lay-offs and furloughs to address the lack of state funds. The dominos are beginning to fall.

IBHE will soon convene members of the Higher Education Legislative Caucus at our offices to discuss the worsening crisis and the need for action. The impact is not limited to public colleges and universities. David Tretter, President of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, [recently cogently outlined the need for support](#) for all of higher education as an investment in Illinois' future.

While the increasing attention to the plight of higher education in Illinois may be a good sign, a budget supporting increases in college attainment for the future workforce is what is needed.

## Advocacy for Quality Higher Education

The State of Illinois is on its 8th month without appropriating funds for higher education or Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) grants - the longest in the history of Illinois.

**Spencer Haydary**, a junior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is working with his student government leaders to collect stories about how the budget impasse is affecting Illinoisans' ability to access or complete their college degrees. A [Storybank link](#) is available to gather this information. Haydary states, "We're looking for stories of all kinds! Whether you are a MAP recipient, are facing employment cuts, or are worried as a citizen about the future of higher education, we want to hear from you!"

### 60 x 2025

[A recently released report shows that Illinois is a national leader in community college transfer student success](#) (Jenkins & Fink, 2016). The **Community College Research Center** establishes Illinois' place among the best performing states for the community college to four-year college transfer processes. Illinois ranked third in the nation for bachelor's completion among community college transfer students. **Illinois also ranked third in the nation for bachelor's completion among community college students transferring to public universities.** Illinois ranked fourth in the country for bachelor's degree completion among all community college students. The report also finds that there is a success gap for lower income transfer students in Illinois compared to higher income students.

[edTPA](#) is a performance-based, subject-specific assessment measure of teacher candidates' readiness to teach which Illinois institutions with approved educator preparation programs leading to initial licensure were required to begin piloting in September 2013. edTPA became a requirement for licensure on Sept. 1, 2015. Since that date, more than 1,350 candidates have completed edTPA with a first-time pass rate of over 96 percent.

edTPA uses processes similar to National Board certification; candidates are required to provide evidence of their practice competencies in a portfolio including lesson plans, video recordings of the student teacher delivering instruction, and analysis of and feedback on student learning. Illinois has recognized the need for a common standards- and performance-based assessment of teaching effectiveness that would measure teacher candidates' classroom readiness and provide information for program improvement. edTPA is designed to ensure that those who become teachers not only understand educational theory and subject matter content but can demonstrate their ability to lead a classroom and ensure that students with diverse strengths and needs are learning. New teachers must be effective from day one.

## Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education**, in conjunction with the **Illinois Community College Board** and [Transfer/the Illinois Articulation Initiative](#), are conducting two special meetings on February 19 and 26 in Bloomington for the IAI GECC panels to review their descriptors and identify possible matches to AP exams. In response to the enactment of the **College and Career Success for All Students Act** ([P.A. 99-358](#)), the IAI integration of AP meetings will primarily be attended by faculty members as well as academic representatives from several IAI-participating institutions, with expected attendance to be between 150 and 200 total for the two meetings. The **College Board** has provided sponsorship funding to make this important event possible. In addition to the panel members, **Rep. Mike Fortner** (R-49) and College Board staff also will be present at the meetings.

## IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Elisabeth Ann White, Principia College



Portrait of an Indian Man



Green Tree



Emerging



Portrait of an Indian Boy



Dead Bird

## Student Laureates

In each issue of *The Bulletin*, we will feature students laureates recognized by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

Blackburn College



**Sarah Collman**  
New Douglas, IL

*Majors: Mass Communications  
and Marketing*

Bradley University



**Kristin Kreher**  
Smithton, IL

*Majors: Communications  
Minors: Interactive Media,  
Marketing, and Business Studies*

Columbia College



**Lance Taylor Cox**  
Rockford, IL

*Major: Cultural Studies*

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