

## Applegate's Update

### Illinois Needs Bachelor's Degrees-A Lot of Them

Everyone understands that Illinois' economy is different from Arkansas' or Mississippi's. Yes we do need more people with short term industry recognized credentials, career and technical education, and associate degrees in targeted workforce areas. Before coming to Illinois I worked with a foundation to marshal \$225 million to support community college capacity building across the nation to address this challenge.

However, Illinois' economy, with strong design, logistics, green, financial, health, and technology development sectors among others, also requires a strong talent pool at the bachelor's and graduate degree levels. For example, a recent national study of talent needs across the states based on analysis of educational requirements identified in Illinois job advertisements in 2014-15 clearly showed that 54% of those jobs required a bachelor's degree to apply. Only 19% of the current Illinois workforce has that degree according to the study. In that study the "BA gap" was by far the largest in Illinois.

The IBHE led [Illinois Commission on the Future of the Workforce](#) recently received data from specific regions in Illinois reinforcing this need for engineers, medical scientists, financial analysts, managers, software developers...well you get the picture. Could someone without a bachelor's or graduate degree do some of these jobs? Probably. But the point is without that level of credential and the learning it signifies few would even be able to apply.

The primary focus on pathways to short-term certificates and applied associate degrees is important, it is not adequate to drive Illinois' economy forward. That is why the Commission on the Future of the Workforce will make recommendations that will help each region of Illinois develop a comprehensive approach to the workforce that will include support for increases in people with bachelor's degrees – lots of them. It along with stakeholders across the education and employer systems, are also working to ensure that for those who rightly begin their education journey with certificates and more applied learning do not end up in an educational cul de sac. It is important that the large numbers of low income students and students of color who begin their education this way have the opportunity to eventually build on that learning to continue to the bachelor's degrees they need to have successful careers in an economy that is clearly demanding them in greater numbers.

State leaders have rightly noted that for Illinois to climb out of its budget hole it will require a more vibrant economy that supports dramatic revenue increases and the reduced health, public assistance, and criminal justice costs that come with an educated, well-employed citizenry. It cannot all be cuts and new revenue, though both of those will also be required. The labor market projections data clearly show that unless we invest in expanding Illinois' capacity to provide high quality college credentials (including bachelor's and graduate degrees) to its people, the chances for economic success are as one Governor friend of mine was fond of saying, "Slim to none and slim just left the room." Higher education has repeatedly been shown by economists to provide a higher return on investment than any other area of state expenditure. Unless we treat it as an investment and make that investment our future,

it is at risk. I strongly hope this is the lens through which we view ongoing discussions about the 2016 and 2017 Illinois state budgets.

## **IBHE and the President of the United States**

President Obama's speech to the General Assembly and leadership of Illinois called for a new approach to politics. He called for greater trust, mutual commitment to the common good, and compromise. IBHE in its [2017 budget request](#) has called for **foundation funding** for higher education in 2017 to right the ship and stop the bleeding and equally importantly, the creation of an "[Illinois Higher Education Compact](#)." The Compact requires what the President asked for through the creation of a partnership between Illinois' political and higher education leaders that provides a promise of stable, adequate funding over multiple years from the state in exchange for higher education's commitment to do the hard work necessary to increase its efficiency and effectiveness and improve student outcomes. It will take strong partnerships to create and implement the Compact. It was good to hear the President of the United States support changes in how governing takes place, that applies to bringing the Compact to reality. IBHE firmly believes that now is exactly the time to develop this Compact. We are working with our stakeholders to advance its development and approval in the coming months.

## **Governor's Budget Proposal**

On February 17, Governor Rauner gave his Fiscal Year 2017 budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly. [The Governor's proposed FY17 higher education budget](#) provides a total appropriation of \$2.95 billion, or a decrease of \$345.4 million, or 10.5 percent. Included in this total is \$1.2 billion for the state's contribution for the University Retirement System.

The Governor's proposed budget for higher education operations is \$1.75 billion from general funds, or a decrease of \$197.8 million, or 10.2 percent, from final FY15 appropriation levels.

*(Note: Since a FY16 budget is not yet enacted for higher education, the final FY15 appropriation level is used as the benchmark for comparison purposes.)*

Major highlights of the Governor's FY17 proposed budget include:

- **\$1.01 billion for Public Universities** that includes \$961.4 million allocated to individual university systems with a new \$50 million appropriation to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for distribution based on the Board's established performance funding model. Overall, the FY17 proposed funding from general funds reflects a decrease of \$190.4 million, or 16 percent from the FY15 appropriation. (GOMB still assumes the FY16 appropriation level of \$842.2 million, or 30 percent below the FY15 appropriation, for universities as it was proposed in the Governor's FY16 Introduced Budget.)
- **\$287.1 million for Community Colleges** that provides the same \$73.9 million in funding for Equalization Grants as in FY15, but includes a \$4.3 million reduction in Base Operating Grants for a proposed level of \$182.6 million. The allocation for performance funding is \$9.5 million, an increase of \$9.1 million from FY15 using ICCB's performance funding model. Overall, the FY17 proposed funding from general funds reflects a decrease of \$800,300 from FY15 appropriations.
- **\$364.9 million for Monetary Award Program (MAP)** is proposed at the same funding level that was appropriated in FY15.

[Click here](#) for a more complete exploration of the Governor's higher education budget proposals. [The Governor's full FY17 Budget is available here.](#)

**Governor Bruce Rauner** has established the [Children's Cabinet](#) to create a strategic vision for education, health and human services for Illinois' youth.

"The Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth is systematically addressing the fragmented system that currently exists in Illinois," **Secretary of Education Beth Purvis** said. "Governor Rauner's new structure will support and integrate the State's priorities and initiatives more effectively to identify and address any agency collaboration barriers so we can more thoughtfully and aggressively improve the future for our children."

All three executive directors of the state's higher education agencies, **Jim Applegate** of the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**, **Karen Hunter-Anderson** of the **Illinois Community College Board**, and **Eric Zarnikow** of the **Illinois Student Assistance Commission**, join the 20 member Cabinet, chaired by the Governor.



**Saint Xavier University (SXU)** recently surpassed more than 1,200 distance education degree programs across the country to earn [the No. #3 ranking on U.S. News & World Report's "2016 Best Online Graduate Nursing Programs" list](#). "This ranking illustrates a commitment to excellence in nursing education and demonstrates the dynamic leadership and talented faculty who incorporate best practices in online education at Saint Xavier University (SXU)," said School of Nursing Dean Gloria Jacobson, R.N., Ph.D.

 **COLLEGE CHANGES EVERYTHING®** Save the Date: July 21, 2016

### Aligning Attainment with Employer Engagement and Economic Growth

Please mark your calendars to attend [the sixth annual College Changes Everything \(CCE\) conference](#) – the state's premier college access and success event. This one day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with increasing college access and college completion for students in support of the state's **Goal 2025** – to increase the proportion of **adults in Illinois with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60% by the year 2025**. The conference will take place at the Tinley Park Convention Center, Tinley Park, Illinois.

**The Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success** underscores the critical role higher education plays in economic recovery and growth, particularly in ensuring our state has an educated workforce to meet the needs of business and industry. Illinois' economic success requires providing college credentials aligned with current and future workforce needs at the state and regional levels. Engaging with employers more and highlighting the roles employers can play in helping students achieve success are essential in our collaborative effort to reach Goal 2025. This year's conference is an opportunity to further cultivate existing partnerships and develop new collaborations among educators and employers. Currently the [Higher Education Commission on the Future of the Workforce](#) is meeting and the CCE 2016 event will provide an opportunity for sharing observations and recommendations for strong regional collaboration efforts all over Illinois.

The Conference Planning Committee is making a call for proposals for the 2016 Conference. Help make this conference a valuable professional development experience by sharing your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your questions with colleagues from all over the state. Please complete the session proposal form which is available on the [conference web page](#). Completed session proposal forms need to be submitted by email to the [Conference Planning Committee](#) by **March 31, 2016**.

## Increasing Adult Degree Completion

Spread the word about this **free** opportunity for student veterans on Illinois' campuses. **Bridges to Employment** events assemble executives and senior managers from the public and private sectors to engage with veterans in panel discussions focused on the unique strengths that veterans can leverage to meet employers' needs. Following the panel, veterans have the opportunity to connect with professional partners and hone essential networking skills. Student veterans are provided business cards and resume support prior to the event. Click here for more [Contact the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning \(CAEL\)](#) if you have any questions.

Bridges to Employment will be held at three locations across the state in March, 2016. Click the dates for registration and more information:

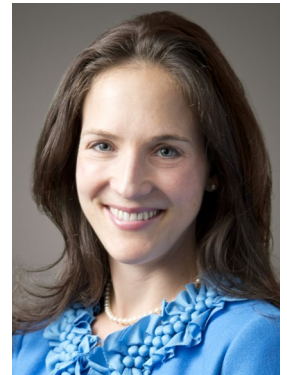
- [March 1](#) – Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield)
- [March 22](#) – Lewis University (Romeoville)
- [March 30](#) – Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago)

### People in the News

[Lindsay Anderson](#), a former high-ranking legislative advisor in the state capital, has been appointed executive director for governmental relations for the **University of Illinois**. **President Tim Killeen** announced on February 11. Anderson, a graduate of the University's Urbana-Champaign campus, will begin her new duties March 1.

"Her first-hand knowledge of university issues and years of legislative experience will serve us well as we continue to ramp up advocacy efforts to support our students, our world-class academic and research programs, and our crucial role in driving progress and economic growth," Killeen said.

Anderson is currently an attorney with McGuire Woods, where her duties include advising clients on working with government. Since 2013, Anderson also has chaired **IBHE** and the **State Universities Retirement System**. She was appointed to the boards by **Governor Pat Quinn** and has continued to serve under **Governor Bruce Rauner**; she will resign from both before joining the University. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UIUC and a law degree from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. She was a 2015 Edgar Fellow.



**Rock Valley College** Professor of Mathematics [Diane Koenig](#) was recently honored with a **Teaching Excellence Award** at the **41st Annual American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference**. Teaching excellence is the main focus of the award. Diane Koenig started her career at Rock Valley College as the Math Supervisor for the Personalized Learning Center in 1981. Just three years later after completing her master's degree in Applied Mathematics, she became the first female mathematics faculty member at RVC.

**Richland Community College's** President **Gayle Saunders** retires at the end of February. Former Richland President **Charles "Chuck" Novak**, whom Saunders replaced in 2001 after he retired, will return as the interim president. Board Chairman Bruce Campbell said the search for Saunders' permanent replacement will continue while Novak brings stability to the position.





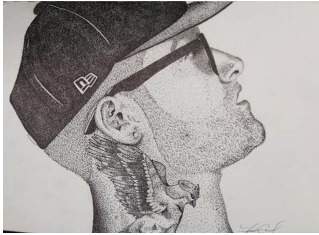
**David J. Livingston**, PhD, President of Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio has been appointed as the 10<sup>th</sup> President of **Lewis University**. He will begin his role as President on July 1. He succeeds Brother James Gaffney, FSC, who will retire on June 30 after 28 years of leadership and service to Lewis.



**Morton College's** Board of Trustees recently appointed **Dr. Stanley Fields** as the college's new president during their meeting January 21st. Dr. Fields was selected from an array of highly-qualified candidates. Prior to being selected as President of Morton College, Dr. Fields served as superintendent of schools for Berwyn's District 100. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Tulsa.

## IBHE Student Art Exhibition

**Mason Gard,  
Danville Area  
Community College**



**Mac Spotifyd**

**Laura Dejong,  
John Wood  
Community College**



**Keokuk Church**

**Melissa Lynch, College of DuPage**



**Winter at Sea**



**Ragged Line**

## Student Laureates

In each issue of *The Bulletin*, we will feature students laureates recognized by the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. *Photo unavailable: Concordia University Chicago, Kayla Lohman, Kirkwood, MO, Elementary Education and Director of Christian Education Major.*

DePaul University



**Nichole May**  
Lemont, IL

*Major: Peace, Justice, and  
Conflict Studies*

Dominican University



**Cutberto Aguayo**  
Chicago, IL

*Majors: Political Science  
and Economics  
Minors: Business Admin/Pre-Law*

East-West University



**Ghada M. Morrar**  
Chicago, IL

*Major: Behavior Science*

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