

Applegate's Update

I hope this Friday the 13th goes well for you. My children used to talk about "opposites day" so maybe Illinois will have some good luck and we can build on the bipartisan bill recently passed to partially fund higher education. We continue to hear that a 2016 fiscal year budget and a 2017 budget are both on the table beyond the stop gap funding that was provided to higher education recently (which was important in many ways of course).

However, despite the continued stalemate at the state level, many of our colleagues in Illinois are pushing ahead. I recently had the opportunity to deliver the opening keynote at a convening of key stakeholders in the Quad Cities region. The IBHE in partnership with Advance Illinois, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), and others is working to support the development of strong regional networks made up of multi-sector leaders (education, business, non-profits, philanthropy) that are assessing the needs of their regions, setting goals for raising quality of life, and developing/implementing strategies collaboratively to raise education attainment levels and improve the economy, health, safety, and environment of the places where they live.

The regions are best equipped to define their needs. For example, I learned in the Quad Cities that while certified welders were needed (as they are across the state), the education they saw required was different than I had heard elsewhere. Apparently due to the rapid integration of robotics and advances in "adhesive manufacturing" the nature of welding is expected to change dramatically. People are needed who understand metallurgy, can work with robots and programming, are adept problem solvers, and are comfortable with change. In short, people with the essential skills a quality college education should provide.

Approximately 200 leaders attended the Quad Cities Stakeholder Convening focusing on college readiness, college success, and college to career transitions. The regional Chamber of Commerce, United Way, higher education institutions, K-12 districts and others are helping bring the initiative together. We know there are other strong regional efforts going on across Illinois (e.g., Northern Illinois, Peoria, and Springfield). Several efforts have sprung up in Chicagoland to better align work there. In a state as big and diverse as Illinois, it makes great sense for problems and solutions to be defined on the ground by the people who have the most skin in the game to make life better.

At the state level, our job is to understand how we can best add value to these efforts. Often we have data and access to technical assistance resources that can help. We can learn what state policies are needed to help and what policies need to be changed or removed to get out of the way of regional progress. That is the approach IBHE and its partners will be taking in supporting regions to use the findings of our Commission on the Future of the Workforce to advance their agendas. An RFP will be issued in early summer asking for regional network applicants. Keep your eye out for that. Once applicants are selected and before the summer is out we will be using grant funding to tailor support to specifically help regions achieve their goals for successful college to career transitions that meet workforce needs aligned with their ongoing work around regional WIOA plans and other related initiatives.

What I learned when we launched a similar regional mobilization effort nationally at the Lumina Foundation was that whatever support is provided from outside must be integrated into regional priorities and owned by the people who live there. Anything that is labeled a Lumina, IBHE, or state initiative will not be sustainable.

I have no doubt our regional partners will put our support to good use. What I find so inspiring about regional work is the way it embodies the best of the American spirit of pragmatism. Solving problems to make life better is the focus. Political parties, ideologies, and self-interest typically take second seat to the commitment to create a more educated place to live with a better quality of life. In case of fire we are advised to stay close to the ground because that's where the oxygen is to sustain life. It seems to be good advice for all of us hoping to effect positive change in our state.

Lake County social service agencies are joining with local colleges to provide guidance for Latino families that include high school students who could become the first in their family to attend college. "Familias En Educación" will be held at the **University Center of Lake County (UCLC)** on Saturday, May 21. The goal of the event is to provide students and parents who have not experienced the U.S. higher education system with information and tools to make the journey through high school to college and then to career easier to navigate.

The half-day session will include a keynote address by **Dr. Suleyma Perez, Northeastern Illinois University's** Executive Director of Government Relations. **Myra Gaytán-Morales**, Assistant Dean for Academic Services & Programs at UCLC, will provide information about Latino employment and higher education in Lake County. A panel of Latino college students from National Louis University and the College of Lake County will provide lessons from personal experience. **Ercilia Miranda-Jonas**, Outreach Program Coordinator for the **Illinois Student Assistance Commission**, will outline financial aid opportunities. Representatives from the sponsoring organizations will host roundtable discussions with the families.

The event is sponsored by College of Lake County, Family Service of Lake County, Highland Park High School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Lake County State's Attorney, Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, National Louis University, and the University Center of Lake County. Sessions will be presented in Spanish and space is limited, so registration is required. [Click here](#) to register.

Increasing Adult Degree Completion

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign faculty member **Rebecca Ginsburg** participated in a roundtable discussion on prison reform at the White House. Ginsburg is among a small group of college and university leaders invited to the May 6 event.

Ginsburg is director of the **Education Justice Project**, a college-in-prison program that provides academic courses to individuals incarcerated at Danville Correctional Center in Danville, Illinois. EJP also provides support and services to family members of Illinois prisoners and to people who have returned to Champaign and Chicago upon release from prison.

Ginsburg visited Washington, D.C., in September 2015 at the invitation of the **U.S. Department of Education** to participate in a roundtable discussion about the **Second Chance Pell** pilot program, announced last summer. The experimental program, to begin next fall, will restore access to federal Pell Grant financial aid for some inmates to pursue postsecondary education while they're incarcerated in state or federal institutions.

"I look forward to telling folks about the multiple successes of the UIUC program at Danville and other efforts statewide, and to encouraging the administration to continue supporting such initiatives," said Ginsburg, who holds faculty appointments in landscape architecture and in education policy, organization and leadership.



People in the News



Governor Bruce Rauner has appointed [James Palos](#) to the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**. His experience as a higher education administrator, as well as in non-profit management and education organizations brings a valuable perspective to the board. Previously, Palos served as President of **Wright College**, part of **City Colleges of Chicago**. During his tenure, Wright College saw a 23 percent increase in the number of students graduating, while increasing student learning support and decreasing operational expenses. He is currently the president of **Hyde Park Institute**. He also worked for JP Consulting as a principal and is a former member of the **Illinois State Board of Education**. Palos earned his bachelor's degree from Columbia College at Columbia University and his MBA from Northwestern University. He lives in Chicago.

Governor Bruce Rauner has also appointed [Dustin Heuerman](#) to the **Illinois Community College Board**. His background in education and criminal justice will bring a unique perspective to the board. Since 2010, Heuerman has served as a faculty member at Lake Land College where he is responsible for teaching undergraduate classes online and in-person, curriculum review and development, and student advisement. Before going into education, Heuerman worked in law enforcement. He was the Chief of Police for the Village of Atwood and a Deputy Sheriff for the Champaign County Sheriff's Office. He is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Heuerman received his bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Indiana State University and his Doctorate from Ferris State University in Community College Leadership. He lives in Champaign.



The **State Universities Retirement System (SURS)** has announced that [SURS Executive Director W. Bryan Lewis will step down effective the end of June](#), to accept a position with the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System (PA SERS). Lewis will become the chief investment officer for PA SERS, a system serving 236,000 public employees with assets of \$25 billion. The SURS Board of Trustees will be conducting a nationwide search to fill the position.

Chicago State University Professor **Mel S. Sabella** will receive [the American Association of Physics Teachers Homer L. Dodge Citation for distinguished service](#). At Chicago State University, he has implemented Physics Education Research based instructional materials into the physics program and developed a multi-discipline Learning Assistant (LA) Program to support students at CSU. He has been an advisor to physics majors, an Assessment Coordinator for the physics program, and a co-advisor of the Society of Physics Students and the CSU S-STEM Scholars Program for Chemistry and Physics majors. Sabella also started the Science Fair Central – South Program at CSU which supports students in Chicago in developing Science Fair Projects.



IBHE Student Art Exhibition

Alexandria Jurczewski,
College of DuPage



He Was Loved by Blood and Water

Jessica Klement,
John Wood Community College



Evening Flight

Student Laureates

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

MacMurray College



Shannon Young
Carmel, IN

Major: Interpreter Prep/ASL
Minor: Psychology

McKendree University



Kenny O'Dell, Jr.
Carlyle, IL

Major: Chemistry
Minors: Biochemistry, Creative Writing, Psychology, and Sociology

Millikin University



Alexander Koulos
Naperville, IL

Major: Accounting

In Case You Missed It

A few articles and updates worth the read:

[WUIS](#): Shifting horizons behind bars, May 5, 2016.

[Chicago Tribune](#): 84-year-old grandfather to graduate from Chicago's Northeastern Illinois University, May 8, 2016.

[Catalyst Chicago](#): Illinois fiscal crisis threatens progress in college-going for students of color, May 11, 2016.

[News-Gazette](#): IBHE director cites danger of 'brain drain' if state doesn't have budget, May 13, 2016.

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