

Applegate's Update

A Little Bit of History

Last week, on October 27, the first annual **Illinois Public University Trustees Conference** was held in Chicago. IBHE, with the support of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) and the Lumina Foundation, planned the event; a plan in the making for more than two years based upon discussions with University Chairs, their Presidents and IBHE's Chairs Lindsay Anderson and Tom Cross. Trustees are central players in the operation of higher education institutions and systems. Appointed by the Governor, the public university trustees hold the fiduciary responsibility to ensure the effective operation of the Illinois public universities to attain institutional goals as well as the goals of the [Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success](#), the state's master plan for higher education in Illinois. They assume these important positions as volunteers coming from many walks of life. It only makes sense that they be provided professional support in performing their duties. [A new law, P.A. 99-695](#), also mandates professional development leadership training for them going forward. In a year of challenging state politics, one of the areas the General Assembly and Governor came together on was agreeing to mandate professional development leadership training for university trustees.

During the day the trustees were able to network across their institutions and hear from experts around key topics confronting higher education nationally and in Illinois. One session provided in-depth nuts and bolts information about how to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities and conform to Illinois laws in ways that help them be a consequential board meaningfully (and legally) making a difference in their institutions' success as well as the success for the college students they serve. They also focused on the ways Boards can support and advance a "college completion agenda": helping their Presidents, faculty, and staff implement game changing interventions that dramatically increase student college completion, especially for underserved students. This is work directly tied to Illinois' achievement of its 60 x 2025 goal and the creation of a workforce to support the state's 21st century economic success.

Over the course of the day trustees also discussed emerging trends impacting higher education in Illinois and nationally: changing student demographics, the need for a new business model for higher education, the changing nature of the workforce in higher education, and strategies to make campuses more inclusive and safe.

The day concluded with two rich discussions of issues of particular relevance to Illinois. The first addressed the role of boards in helping create and support public/private partnerships between their universities and important stakeholder groups, especially employers and those driving Illinois' economic development. The focus on partnerships also delved into innovative work with P-12 schools, philanthropy, and the non-profit sector. Successful examples of such partnerships were shared as well as the challenges needing board attention to sustain and grow such partnerships. One clear message from the session was the need for expansion of this work in a time of declining state support for public higher education.

The last session of the day was focused on the role boards can play in advocating for and supporting other advocacy efforts to build confidence and support for higher education. The advocacy discussion was a broad one on themes including multiple stakeholder groups, strengthening trust and confidence in the system among the public, engaging employers, and, of course, supporting efforts to develop predictable robust funding for higher education from state legislative and government policy makers.

The day long training session was held at McGuireWoods' Chicago office. We thank them for graciously providing the space for the meeting. Many states have regularly provided this type of support to their trustees for some time. Illinois is now among them. IBHE plans to implement the new law by continuing the effort with annual conferences, webinars on topics of substantial trustee interest, and promoting networking opportunities. We will coordinate with the good work that has been going on for some time with community college trustees through the Illinois Community College Trustee Association. College and university trustees are crucial partners in the work to ensure that Illinois higher education results in student success, college graduation, and earning a good living, hopefully as civic minded **Illinois** citizens.

60 x 2025

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is building on its foundation of previous 2+2 agreements with **Lewis and Clark Community College**. These **2+2 Partnership Programs** streamline students' transfer experience and support efficient progress toward completion of their bachelor's in multiple programs.

Newly-expanded partnerships have been developed in the areas of English, sociology, mathematics, applied communication studies and computer management information systems (CMIS). The universities now have 16 agreements available for students.

"These new agreements provide additional opportunities for our future students," said **Denise Cobb**, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at SIUE. "They require a collaborative spirit and a focus on what is best for students. SIUE is strengthened by our positive relationship with Lewis and Clark Community College, and we value their partnership. Our shared commitment to the students of this region will enable our continued success and vitality."

SIUE's strategic plan, set in 2013, includes the goal of establishing 50 2+2 agreements by 2018. SIUE is very near the 2018 target. According to **Gregory Budzban**, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, these partnerships are significant in today's educational landscape.

"In the College of Arts and Sciences, we're extremely excited about these new 2+2 agreements as they provide students new options to fulfill their career goals," Budzban said. "We will continue to forge these collaborative relationships, and remain committed to helping students make the successful transition to our campus and their eventual careers." For more information on the 2+2 program, visit siue.edu/transfer/programs.

Student Experience at University Center Results in a Career in Higher Education

When **University Center**'s new pre-admission advisor **Nora Mena** meets with prospective students, it won't be difficult for her to anticipate their questions. She once asked them herself.

Mena began her undergraduate studies at the **College of Lake County**, where she received an Associate of Arts degree in December of 2011. She then transferred into the Bachelor of Arts program with a major in psychology that **Northeastern Illinois University** offers at the University Center.

After receiving that degree *summa cum laude* in May of 2014, Mena was hired by **Southern Illinois University Carbondale** (SIUC) to serve as the Program/Student Advisor at the University Center in Grayslake for the teaching preparation programs they offered there. That position provided the opportunity for her to work with traditional transfer students as well as with adult career-changers returning to school for teaching licensure via a second bachelor's degree.



Mena continued her education by enrolling in SIUC's Master of Science in Workforce Education and Development program. She anticipates receiving that degree in December of 2016. While an undergraduate, she began serving on the University Center's Governing Board as the student representative, a role she retained when she began her graduate work. While her new job requires that she surrender her Board position, that's a small downside.

"The University Center has been a huge factor in my 'success story,'" Mena said. "I would not be where I am today without it. Based on the experience and education that I received at the University Center, I've been able to reach my educational and career goals, as well as help others prepare to enter the workforce in Lake County as elementary school teachers. Trying to understand and weigh options for career, financial, and educational goals is a difficult task and I relish the opportunity to help students with the advisement process and to answer any questions that they have."

Executive Director and Dean **G. Gary Grace** expressed delight at working with Mena in this new role. "Nora is an excellent example of the type of student the Center was designed to serve – those who want to pursue higher education while they continue to live and work in this local community. We've benefitted from her student perspective for some years and we will be glad to use even more of her time and talent as the initial contact for prospective students."

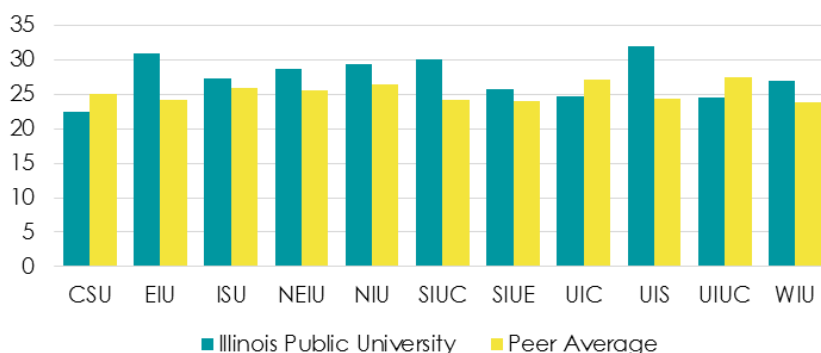
The University Center of Lake County is a nonprofit consortium of twenty-one colleges and universities – both public and private – from across Illinois that enable adults to complete bachelor's degrees, earn graduate degrees, or pursue professional development programs without leaving Lake County. Programs are offered via evening, weekend, or online study across a wide range of disciplines. The Center's Grayslake facility also doubles as a Conference Center, providing space and presentation tools designed for collaborative learning as well as offering on-site catering. For more information, visit www.ucenter.org.

Increasing Affordability



"Degrees per 100 FTE" has traditionally been used as an institutional productivity/efficiency measure indicating how many degrees are awarded in a year relative to the number of full-time equivalent students and is currently one component of IBHE's performance funding formula. As a whole Illinois Public universities performed better than the national average, as well as the combined average of their targeted peers. When analyzed individually, all but one of the Illinois public universities were above average in this productivity measure and in many instances they performed well above average. More importantly, when compared to targeted peer institutions with similar programmatic offerings, eight out of the 11 Illinois public universities included in the analysis were identified as being more productive in this metric. [Click here for the full DataPoint.](#)

FY 2014 Degrees per 100 FTE



Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

The fourth **IBHE Faculty Fellow** has been appointed. **Dr. Patricia Welch Saleeby**, associate professor at the **Southern Illinois University Carbondale's** School of Social work will be conducting a research study to focus on identifying effective educational strategies to support students with disabilities across racial, economic, socio-economic, geographical and other key demographic indicators. There are four main project goals: (1) to identify and compile available disability-related data at postsecondary institutions (public and private) including information on academic success and

Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students



costs of disability support services; (2) to identify the gaps in disability-related data at these postsecondary institutions – that is, information that is needed to better understand the needs of students with disabilities; (3) to identify any best practices implemented at postsecondary institutions to help students achieve their educational objectives; and (4) to use the acquired information together to make informed recommendations regarding specific educational strategies to benefit students with disabilities and to increase their success at postsecondary institutions in Illinois. The information secured will provide a greater understanding of the needs, costs, gaps, resources, success, and best practices associated with supporting students with disabilities at postsecondary institutions in Illinois and across the country.

"We are pleased to be able to support Dr. Saleeby's pursuit of evidence-based models for student support services for students with disabilities," said **Dr. James Applegate**, IBHE executive director. "We are grateful to the **IBHE-Faculty Advisory Council** for helping IBHE create this opportunity for an Illinois faculty member to use their expertise to assist Illinois policy making, as well as contribute to national discussions."

Dr. Saleeby received a Ph.D. in Social Work from the George Warren Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a leading expert on disability in social work and public health – recognized internationally for her scholarly work promoting the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) in social work and the application of the Capability Approach as an alternative framework for better situating disability. Her work has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals and books across various disciplines. She has been an invited speaker and presenter at over 50 national and international meetings. In 2013, Dr. Saleeby was selected for the Early Career Faculty Excellence Award from the College of Education and Human Services. She has served in local and national leadership with organizations such as the American Parkinson Disease Association, Center for Hearing and Speech, Gifted Resource Council, National Association of Social Workers, and Council on Social Work Education. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the CSWE Diversity Center Advisory Taskforce, and she is a consulting editor for *Health and Social Work*.

The previous Faculty Fellows are Professor Jennifer Peters, spring 2014; Dr. Alice Doubleday, summer 2014; and Dr. Jennifer Delaney, fall 2014.

The **University of Illinois at Chicago** has received a five-year, \$5.3 million grant from the **U.S. Department of Education** affirming the designation of the university as a **Hispanic-Serving Institution**. The grant, from the Education Department's Hispanic-Serving Institutions – Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (HSI-STEM) and Articulation Programs, is aimed at augmenting UIC's efforts to increase the number of Latino and low-income students attaining degrees in STEM fields.

UIC is one of only two institutions among the 91 receiving HSI-STEM grants that is classified by the **Carnegie Foundation** as a doctoral institution with the highest level of research activity.

"UIC provides top-notch STEM education to Latino students," says **Susan Poser**, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Our undergraduate Latino students have the opportunity to participate in a wealth of research opportunities with nationally recognized faculty, so that by the time they graduate, they will have gained experience that is often reserved for graduate students.

The U.S. needs about a million more STEM professionals to remain globally competitive, says **Aixa Alfonso**, associate professor of biological sciences at UIC and principal investigator on the HSI-STEM grant, citing 2012 findings of the **President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology**. Reaching that goal requires the country to graduate more than a third more scientists and

engineers than are currently earning STEM degrees. "We need people, and we are an increasing proportion of the population," Alfonso said, referring to scientists and engineers in the first case, and Latinas and Latinos in the second. Although Latinos and Latinas now make up 15 percent of the adult population in the U.S., they comprise only 6 percent of the STEM workforce. "We need to address that gap," Alfonso said.

Despite the large number of people graduating from principal preparation programs in Illinois, districts noted that they could not find enough candidates prepared to lead in their schools. So the state took decisive action to change how principals are prepared. The four-part video series, [A Bold Move to Better Prepare Principals: The Illinois Story](#), begins with the tale of how the state of Illinois and its partners, including universities, districts and teachers' unions, accomplished this change. Two of the videos profile exemplary preparation programs at the **University of Illinois at Chicago** and **New Leaders Chicago**, which helped to inspire the higher standards and whose graduates effectively lead Chicago public schools. The final video features Chicago principals who describe how their training programs prepared them for the real demands of their jobs.

The **Wallace Foundation** commissioned videos were produced and directed by award-winning filmmaker Tod Lending, in consultation with **Erika Hunt** and **Alicia Haller**, who are project directors at the Center for the Study of Education Policy at **Illinois State University**. The videos are available for free on the Wallace website.

People in the News

[James Forstall](#), a military veteran who has dedicated many years to improving the lives of Springfield's youth, was named The **State Journal-Register's First Citizen for 2016**. In addition to his military service, he has held a number of positions in higher education. His first in Springfield was assistant to the president of the former **Sangamon State University** (now the **University of Illinois at Springfield**), Robert Spencer. Spencer approached Forstall while he was taking tickets at a jazz concert for the International Frontiers Club to recruit him for the position, Forstall told the ceremony attendees. Forstall said he retired from the Army when Spencer offered him the job. Later, he was vice president of student services at **Lincoln Land Community College**, then on the staff of the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**. He eventually became IBHE's associate director of grants administration, and worked for the dean of **Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**. "He's dedicated decades to higher education, especially as an advocate for disadvantaged youth," said Sergio "Satch" Pecori, chair of the



selection committee for the award and Hanson Professional Services' chief executive officer. Forstall is the 54th recipient of the award, established in 1963 to honor service that improves the Springfield community.



[Shawnee Community College President Tim Bellamey](#) has announced his intention to retire on April 30, 2017. Bellamey began his career at SCC as an adjunct instructor in history and government in 1982. He has been a full-time employee since 1985 and had several administrative positions before being named vice president of instructional services in 2005. Bellamey became the college's seventh president in August 2012. The Board of Trustees has initiated a national search for his successor and expects to name a new president in spring 2017.

Other News

[Secretary of State John Kerry](#) recently spoke to students at the **University of Chicago** on current U.S. foreign policy issues. This event was moderated by **Aspen Institute** President **Walter Isaacson**. Kerry fielded inquiries on Afghanistan and the future of U.S. power, climate change and intricacies of the Iran nuclear agreement, during an [Oct. 26 event hosted by the university's Institute of Politics](#). Long lines stretched down the aisles of Mandel Hall for a chance to get the secretary's views on global diplomacy and international affairs. "It's not every day I get to ask the secretary of state a question," said **Sid Sachdeva**, a third-year in the College, before asking about the future of military force in U.S. foreign policy.

In Case You Missed It

A few articles and reports worth the read:

[IERC Informed](#): Feature topic: Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education, October 2016.

[WCBU-89.9/Peoria Public Radio](#): Education desk: File that FAFSA ASAP, October 10, 2016.

[Chicago Sun-Times](#): Opinion: High-tech manufacturing needs prepared Illinois students, October 26, 2016.

[Vidette Online/ISU](#): ISU Board of Trustees approves budget request, cybersecurity program, October 28, 2016.

[News-Gazette](#): UI president plans to push for full state funding, November 1, 2016.

[WTTW](#): University presidents speak out on state stopgap budget, November 2, 2016.

[New York Times](#): What 12 states schools are cutting, or creating, November 4, 2016.

[Northern Public Radio/WNIJ-89.5](#): Illinois college students, residents call for state to fund higher education, November 4, 2016.



IBHE

1 North Old State Capitol Plaza | Suite 333 | Springfield, Illinois 62701
217-782-2551 TTY 888-261-2881 email info@ibhe.org to subscribe