

IBHE Update

The **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)** is developing plans for answering **U.S. Department of Education (ED)** requirements in response to the new **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**. IBHE has communicated its commitment to work with ISBE and all relevant stakeholders on this work. Currently comments are being received on [Draft #3 of the ESSA State Plan for Illinois](#). On February 22, **Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Chair Tom Cross** sent the following comments to ISBE **Superintendent Tony Smith**:

We propose approaching development of a shared understanding of college and career readiness (CCR) as a process that the State proposes through the ESSA plan. Rather than trying to present a done (not shared, not agreed, not collaboratively developed) definition, committing in the ESSA plan submitted to ED that multiple Illinois stakeholders will collaborate on a CCR definition will show that we are ready to develop a definition that works for all parties and, thus, one that will be used. We understand that during the early ESSA plan development, a number of district superintendents worked together on a draft framework. We appreciate that work and would consider essential that group's input into the process we are suggesting. However, we suggest that rather than have higher education and other stakeholders respond to that unilateral draft, we invite those who were involved in its development to join us in building on all the existing work to jointly develop a mutually agreed definition.

A December 22, 2016 IBHE letter to you can very briefly be summarized thusly:

- Illinois' ESSA plan should not include the CCR Indicators Framework that has been under development in response to the district superintendents' document.
- Rather, the ESSA plan should include State commitment to a process to be implemented during the next year.
- The process will be to collaboratively develop a state CCR definition building on work that's been done and engaging key stakeholders from the ground.

We propose that the State puts into the ESSA plan a proposed process for multiple-stakeholder engagement with a commitment to "turn in" to ED an Illinois CCR definition within a year. The CCR Framework that was entered into the Illinois ESSA draft plan is fundamentally problematic because one side of a transition point cannot effectively single-handedly develop criteria stakeholders on the other side will then agree to. Rather, we suggest that together we commit to a process for quickly developing, in true collaboration with higher education and workforce stakeholders, a shared and agreed definition. We propose that the ESSA plan include a process for collaborative development of a definition by building on good State work that has been going on for the past several years (notably, the P-20 Council's CCR Committee work, the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (HB5729) and its postsecondary and career expectations (PaCE) framework, and ongoing high school and community college "speed up/catch up" projects).

If more time is needed to fully develop such a process, we suggest submitting the Illinois ESSA plan in September rather than April. We argue that any framework that is not developed in a multi-stakeholder process will not be used in the field and will not be valuable in any meaningful way in guiding policy and practice. Only a definition developed collaboratively will have meaningful impact. We are committed to partnering with you to make that happen.

Staff at IBHE are ready to work with your staff and other stakeholders such as the Illinois Community College Board and our colleagues at workforce agencies to take the next steps in the process work we have discussed.

Increasing Affordability

[Western Illinois University \(WIU\) and John Marshall Law School \(JMLS\) in Chicago](#) have signed an accelerated admissions partnership that will allow high-performing students to complete their senior year at WIU and their first year of law school concurrently. The 3 + 3 agreement allows WIU students studying English, history or political science to enter JMLS after their junior year and after taking the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). Students must have earned at least 90 WIU semester hours, with the additional 30 hours required for a bachelor's degree in one of the three departments.

"This agreement is an excellent opportunity for our students to get a head start on a law degree while they are completing their undergraduate degree," said **WIU President Jack Thomas**.

"We look forward to working with John Marshall Law School through this innovative academic degree program." Once students complete their first year of law school at JMLS, they will receive their bachelor's degree from WIU. A law degree from JMLS will be awarded after students complete the school's required curriculum.

JMLS Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs **William B. Powers** said he is pleased the two schools were able to enter into the 3+3 agreement. "This program provides an opportunity for us to collaborate in a way that will save students in the program both time and money," said Powers. "WIU's outstanding programs are a natural fit for John Marshall's practice-ready education."



WIU President Jack Thomas and JMLS Assistant Director of Admissions Jaime Newsom

ILACHE

The **Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE)** is pleased to offer [two \\$1,000 scholarships to Latino/a students in Illinois](#) who exhibit outstanding commitment to learning, community service, and leadership. ILACHE is an action

oriented, independent advocacy group for Latinos in higher education in the areas of access and equity as it relates to employment, college admission representation, and educational legislation in the State of Illinois. An eligible applicant must be an Illinois resident who is an undergraduate college student currently enrolled full-time at a two or four-year regionally accredited college or university in the State of Illinois. Graduating high school seniors can apply but must be registered as a full-time student at an Illinois college or university in the fall 2017 semester before the scholarship funds are disbursed. **The deadline is March 13, 2017 at 11:59 p.m.**

Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

The **Eastern Illinois Writing Project (EIWP)** invites local educators from all disciplines in grades K-16 to apply for its [2017 Summer Institute for Literacy](#) to be held as a hybrid course, online and on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. The institute meets online on June 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22. Teachers who attend the summer institute can receive six hours of graduate tuition waived and a \$400 stipend to help cover the fees, along with continued growth as a teacher leader.

"The institute provides teachers across the curriculum with opportunities to improve student literacy and learning, extend uses of writing and reading in all disciplines, and provide schools with an effective in-service model," said **Robin Murray**, director of the Eastern Illinois Writing Project.

"Participating teachers will also learn to identify, celebrate and enhance their professional roles in a teacher-centered atmosphere."

[Click here](#) to apply for admission to the 2017 Summer Institute. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2017; class size is limited. For more information, email Murray at rlmurray@eiu.edu or call 217-581-2428.

People in the News

Governor Bruce Rauner has appointed two new members to **Illinois Board of Higher Education**: **Darlene Ruscitti**, the regional superintendent of schools in the DuPage Regional Office of Education; and **Cherilyn Murer**, former trustee of **Northern Illinois University** (NIU).

Ruscitti, who received her bachelor's degree from **Northeastern Illinois University** and her Ph.D. from **Loyola University**, is a member of the **P-20 Council**. She is also a member of the Governor's **Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force**. "Ruscitti's professional commitment to improving educational outcomes for students and interaction with local governments will make her an important asset to the board," according to the Governor's office.

Murer founded **Murer Consultants** and has served as the President and CEO of the national consulting firm for 32 years. Murer graduated with her B. A. from **Lewis**

University and received her law degree from **Northern Illinois University**. The Governor's office stated, "Murer's previous trustee position at NIU and executive experiences will be an asset to the board's success."



Ruscitti



Murer



[A. Gabriel Esteban, Ph.D.](#), will serve as the 12th president of **DePaul University**, effective July 1. Esteban will assume the presidency of the nation's largest Catholic university on July 1, becoming the first lay leader in its 119-year history.

"Dr. Esteban brings both extensive experience in higher education and strategic planning to DePaul University," said **William E. Bennett**, chair of the Board of Trustees. "I am confident he will preserve and continue to enhance DePaul's reputation for academic excellence, as well as the university's Catholic and Vincentian mission."

Esteban is currently the president of **Seton Hall University**, a Catholic institution, home to nearly 10,000 students, in South Orange, New Jersey. He assumed the presidency in January 2011, after serving as interim president for six months.

Upcoming Events

Knocking at the College Door, the **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's** (WICHE) projections of high school graduates, shows that the Midwest faces steady declines in the total number of graduates in the coming years. Most of the decline in the region comes from a rapidly contracting White youth population that is not offset by robust increases in the number of non-White graduates. Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio have generated about 48 percent of the region's graduates in recent years and are a driving force of the projected trends in the Midwest. On March 2, at 2:30 p.m. CT, hear from one of the authors of *Knocking at the College Door* about how the changing demographics facing the Midwest could affect K-12 enrollments, college demand and access, workforce trends, and state and institutional decision-making. Joining the author will be **Olga Volokhova**, data team manager in the Business and Workforce Studies for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, and **Eric Lichtenberger**, deputy director of Information Management and Research at the Illinois Board of Higher Education. [Click here to register.](#)

[25th Annual ILACHE Professional and Student Development Conference on April 21 at Northeastern Illinois University](#). This year's theme is Narratives of Hope: Resisting Racism, Economic Marginalization and Educational Hierarchies. Join us at **Northeastern Illinois University** to connect with colleagues and return to campus with the tools necessary to continue to redefine the future of Latino higher education. [Online registration is now open](#).

IBHE Student Art Exhibition

April Lough, Moraine Valley Community College



Untitled



Untitled



Untitled



Untitled



Untitled

Constance Sarantos

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



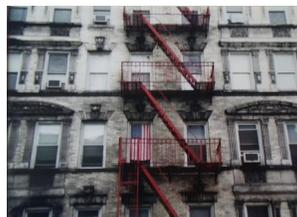
Sleeping Wolf



Reflected Eyes

Nubras Samayeen

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Patriotism

Morgan Miller

Moraine Valley Community College



Shadows

Student Laureates

Governors State University



Samantha Allen

Park Forest, IL
Early Childhood Education
Psychology

Greenville College



Claire Sattler

Bartlett, Illinois
Psychology
Theology and Sociology

Illinois College



Daniel Bacon

Chicago, IL
Business Administration

Illinois Institute of Technology



Maya Al-Khouja

Chicago, IL
Psychology
Architecture

Illinois State University



Lauren Koszyk

Bloomington, IL
Piano Performance
and German

The Lincoln Academy wants to know what past Laureates have been up to since being named [the Lincoln Academy of Illinois](#) Student Laureate. Please call 217.785.5030 or e-mail [Julie Kellner](#) to share your story!

In Case You Missed It

A few articles and reports worth the read:

[Elgin Courier-News](#): ECC president celebrates 10 years of change, challenges, February 16, 2017.

[State Journal-Register](#): LLCC honors its first enrollee at 50th anniversary celebration, February 18, 2017.

[Bloomington Pantagraph](#): ISU wants public input about its future, February 20, 2017.

IBHE

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