

60 x 2025

Illinois Postsecondary Investments, a [Lumina Foundation Strategy Labs](#) report on how higher education funding has impacted Illinois' college attainment goals over the last few decades was released this week, and is posted on the Strategy Labs website.

The Report was prepared by Lumina Foundation Strategy Labs' authors **Scott Boelscher**, **Nate Johnson**, **Martha Snyder**, and **Meegan Dugan Bassett** using publicly available data from the State of Illinois, and provides:

- An overview of the historical structure of higher education in Illinois.
- Details on how funding has shifted dramatically to cover **State University Retirement System (SURS)** payments and other underfunded obligations.
- An overview of how tuition and local funding have had to make up for the major drop in general higher education funding.
- A review of the changes in financial aid and tuition over time.
- Analysis of where costs have increased at public 2- and 4-year institutions.
- Considerations for planning the public investments in higher education that will support Illinois' attainment goals.

Top results include:

- Previously unfunded SURS pension costs are taking up an incredible amount of Illinois higher education funding. These payments have increased by 416% while higher education operating appropriations have decreased by 34%.
- Institutions have increased completions simultaneously, resulting in a much lower appropriation per completion.
- Tuition and local revenue have increased during this period.
- The most substantial increase in costs at both public community colleges and universities has come from institutional aid budget line items.
- Lower income and Black and Hispanic students are more likely to go to schools with lower state funding.
- Ending the budget impasse so colleges and universities can fulfill their core functions is the first step in increasing college attainment in Illinois.
- Funding for Illinois universities does not follow a particular formula, so neither growth nor cuts have been coordinated or planned.
- More coordinated state planning to meet statewide and regional higher education needs could help Illinois meet the state's attainment goals and increase access to better paying jobs for a broader segment of Illinoisans.

[The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships \(NACEP\) Accreditation Commission](#) voted to accredit the dual credit program at **John A Logan College (JALC)**. NACEP commends the college for their commitment to upholding high standards for program quality and academic oversight, as well as for all of the hard work necessary to document policies and practices in order to succeed at a national programmatic peer review. JALC is the second college in Illinois, along with **Lewis & Clark Community College**, to earn NACEP's prestigious national accreditation for its dual credit program. "We appreciate the Illinois Board of Higher Education's continued

encouragement of all institutions of higher education to adhere to high academic standards for their dual credit programs," stated **Adam I. Lowe**, NACEP Executive Director. "We anticipate that additional programs in the state will seek our accreditation in the near future."



L to R: UIC students Thomas Groom & Vishalaxi Tandel and Caterpillar digital and analytics site director Samantha Melchiori

[Caterpillar is bolstering its collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago's Innovation Center.](#) The **UIC Innovation Center** (UIC IC) acts as a hub of collaboration, education and development to bridge academic research and real-world instruction with forward-thinking corporations. The center is a cross-campus initiative supported by the Office of the Provost and led by executive director **Peter Pfanner**.

After sponsoring an interdisciplinary course in 2015, Caterpillar extended its partnership with the Innovation Center by establishing a research lab with a goal to focus on the digital realities of the 21st century. The UIC IC CAT Lab

supports teams of faculty and students who develop ideas from concept through prototype. "What drew Caterpillar to UIC was the Innovation Center with its group of highly-educated millennials who could focus on product development in an interdisciplinary way," said **Samantha Melchiori**, digital and analytics site director for Caterpillar.

More than 200 students are involved in some form of interdisciplinary class, lab or project at the UIC Innovation Center each year. Faculty members representing 20 academic departments are currently teaching classes or directing labs and projects within the flexible use space.

Reducing Gaps for Underserved Students

The **Illinois Board of Higher Education** (IBHE) has recently awarded grants totaling \$2 million to three Illinois public institutions: **Southern Illinois University Carbondale**; **Southern University Illinois Edwardsville**; and **Northeastern Illinois University**. The funds are from the final round of higher education grants from the federal **No Child Left Behind** (NCLB) **Improving Teacher Quality** grant program. These funds were provided through NCLB to partnerships comprised of Illinois colleges and universities and high-need Illinois public school districts.

Related to this final round of funding, IBHE identified two strategic priority areas for use of these funds:

- Initiatives to grow the number of dual credit-qualified teachers in Illinois by providing resources to support their ability to take the requisite graduate-level coursework.
- Initiatives to grow the number of ELL/Bilingual-endorsed teachers in Illinois by providing resources to support their ability to take the requisite coursework.

These universities will be working over the next six months to develop and implement programs to work with district partners to address these priority areas.

Governor Bruce Rauner released an [open letter](#) to school districts and higher learning institutions on opportunities to address acts of discrimination and bigotry in academic environments. The letter, sent through the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), urges educational institutions to develop proactive strategies aimed at preventing acts of hate before they occur.

"Acts of bigotry and hate have no place in our society. All of us need to come together and take the necessary measures to ensure that our schools, colleges, and universities are safe and welcoming environments for students," said Governor Rauner. "Our administration stands strongly with educational institutions across Illinois as they expand opportunities to prevent these acts."

"Illinois has long been a leader in challenging discrimination and ensuring that hateful, unlawful actions are not tolerated," said **IDHR Acting Director Janice Glenn**. "We are committed to assisting administrators, educators, and students in setting a strong example for our communities by condemning discriminatory acts."

"Through an ongoing collaboration, we intend to continue engagement with educational leaders and stakeholders on how to promote welcoming and supportive learning spaces throughout the state," said **Secretary of Education Beth Purvis**. "Continued success in identifying best practices requires open lines of communication between state agencies and educational institutions."

Moraine Valley Community College students swept the engineering portion of the **Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference**'s Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) poster competition hosted April 21, at **Elgin Community College**. First, second and third place awards went to Moraine Valley engineering students. The Engineering Pathways program offered at Moraine Valley guarantees transfer admission into the College of Engineering at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**. This competitive program is designed for high school seniors who plan to enroll as first-time college students for the fall semester.

"I am happy to see the outstanding work of Moraine Valley engineering students be recognized at this year's competition," said **Ryen Nagle**, dean of Science, Business and Computer Technology. "It is a testament to both the quality of students we are attracting due to our Engineering Pathways program with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and to the top-level education students are receiving when they come to study at our institution."

Advocacy for Quality Higher Education

The **Illinois House** and **Senate** returned from a two-week recess last week to debate hundreds of bills before the deadline for consideration. Following are descriptions of legislation related to Illinois higher education still actively moving towards enactment. The list includes bills being monitored by **Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE)**, **Illinois Community College Board (ICCB)** and **Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)**, some of which are state agency initiatives.

- [HB 2404/SB 1865](#) would create the Credit for Prior Learning Act and require each public university to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to IBHE and each community college to submit its policies and procedures for students to earn credit for prior learning to ICCB. At a minimum, these procedures shall include a listing of the types of documentation acceptable and the dates of inclusion for which prior learning is acceptable. The bills also require IBHE and ICCB to adopt rules to permit public higher education institutions to award credit for prior learning after the assessment of prior learning experiences for documented learning that demonstrates achievement of all terminal objectives for a specific course or courses.

- [HB 2740](#) provides that ICCB shall establish alternative methods of credentialing for the issuance of high school equivalency certification. Allows the Board to offer the credentialing on or after January 1, 2018, based on high school credit, postsecondary credit, foreign diplomas, and completion of a competency-based program as approved by the Board. This legislation implements the recommendations of the Alternative Credentialing Methods Taskforce approved by the ICCB at its meeting on January 20, 2017.
- [HB 3091/SB 1968](#) amend the Illinois Public Community College Act to address deficiencies in the law as it pertains to vacancy on a local community college board of trustees. The bills provide that when a vacancy occurs in a community college board, the elected successor shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Community college trustees are elected to 6-year terms. The bills also provide that the vice-chairman shall perform the duties of chairman if there is a vacancy in the office of the chairman or in case of the chairman's absence or inability to act. If there is a vacancy in the office of the chairman and vice-chairman, a chairman pro tempore shall be appointed.
- [HB 3211](#) is an initiative of the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights that extends federal SNAP eligibility to low-income students who are pursuing a career and technical education certificate or degree program at a community college. (Students attending college half-time or more are generally not eligible for SNAP.) The bill would also require ISAC to use financial aid eligibility information to identify students who may be SNAP-eligible and to provide colleges and universities with information on potential student SNAP eligibility. The colleges and universities, in turn, would be required to provide this information to the potentially-SNAP-eligible students identified by ISAC.
- [HB 3255](#) removes obsolete language with regard to members of the Board of Higher Education, vocational education committee, and the Tuition and Fee Waiver Task Force. The bill allows for the filing of electronic copies of reports to the General Assembly and repeals provisions concerning a matching grant program to engineering colleges, a State student cooperative work program, a Parks College feasibility study, and a technology grant program. This is an IBHE initiative to update the Board of Higher Education Act.
- [SB 887](#) provides that ICCB and IBHE may collect a fee to cover the cost of processing and handling individual student-level data requests pursuant to an approved data sharing agreement. Renames the ICCB Instructional Development and Enhancement Applications Revolving Fund to the ICCB Research and Technology Fund and provides that revenues from the assessed fee would be deposited into the special state fund for appropriation to the ICCB to cover costs associated with maintaining and updating individual student-level data systems. Creates the IBHE Data and Research Cost Recovery Fund and provides that revenues from the assessed fee would be deposited into the special state fund for appropriation to the IBHE to cover costs associated with maintaining and updating individual student-level data systems.
- [SB 1351](#) would create the Student Loan Servicing Act, which includes a Student Loan "Bill of Rights," the establishment of a student loan ombudsman function in the office of the Attorney General, and a new licensing requirement for entities engaging in student loan servicing in Illinois.
- [SB 1401](#) is an IBHE initiative that makes changes to the Procurement Code to provide some relief to the public universities. Since the enactment of SB 51, which made sweeping changes to the Code many years ago, the universities and other state agencies have requested changes. Many of the changes in SB 1401 are also in SB 8, which is part of the Senate's "Grand Bargain" bill package.
- [SB 1739](#) is an ISAC initiative that would clarify that teachers who are already licensed can receive a Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship if they are pursuing a Master's in their field or completing coursework that would lead to an endorsement to teach an additional subject or grade level.

People in the News

Governor Bruce Rauner has appointed **John Bambenek** to the **Illinois Community College Board**. Bambenek will bring an important perspective to the board based on his experiences on the **Illinois Board of Higher Education**, as a lecturer at the **University of Illinois at the Urbana-Champaign** (UIUC) and as a small business owner.

Since 2013, Bambenek has taught classes in cybersecurity at UIUC. He is also president of Bambenek Consulting, LTD, which conducts cybersecurity investigations and intelligence. He has provided professional education and conducted forensic examinations. Additionally, he is the manager of threat intelligence systems at Fidelius Cyber Security. Bambenek earned his bachelor's degree from UIUC. He lives in Champaign.



The **Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation** (ILBCF) have announced its [inaugural class of legislative research fellows](#). Fellows are responsible for drafting memos, developing fact sheets, executing communication strategies, preparing presentations, legislative analysis and impact analysis. The four fellows will be providing the Council on Urban Affairs information to help ILBC members make informed decisions that helps the black community, while developing the next group of leaders through work experience. **Crystal Martin** is a second year PhD student of Community Psychology at **National Louis University**. **Subria A. Whitaker** is pursuing a Master's Degree in Sports Administration from **Northwestern University**. **Malayzja D. Anderson** is in the World History Master's degree program at the **University of Illinois at Springfield**. **Ndjuoh MehChu** is a third-year J.D. Candidate at the **University of Chicago Law School**.

Rock Valley College student [Molly Velbeck](#) has been named a [Silver Scholar on Coca-Cola's 2017 Community College Academic Team](#).

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program and recognized the scholars at Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, on April 6-8, in Nashville, TN. As a Silver Scholar, Velbeck received a silver medallion and a monetary award of \$1,250.

Velbeck is a Running Start student from Belvidere High School who will be graduating simultaneously from Belvidere High School and Rock Valley College in May. She served as the Vice President of Scholarship and the Public Relations Chair for RVC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, and was also involved in the Running Start student club on campus. In addition to the Silver Scholar award, Velbeck was unanimously voted to be one of RVC PTK's nominees for an Outstanding Officer International Hallmark Award. She will be transferring to **Illinois State University** in the fall where she is going to major in marketing.



Governor Bruce Rauner has appointed Minier resident **Barbara Baurer** to serve on the **Eastern Illinois University** (EIU) Board of Trustees. "I'm excited and honored to be named as a trustee of Eastern Illinois University," Baurer said. "It's an interesting time to be serving on the board, what with the changes that are taking place at the university and everything that is going on, budget-wise, with the state. We are in need of strong leaders and I look forward to working with the other members of the board, many of whom I've had the opportunity to work with in the past and for whom I have the utmost respect."

Baurer earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from EIU and recently retired as COO of Country Financial. In addition, Baurer was named a 2004 Woman of Distinction by the YWCA of McLean County (Ill.) and one of Illinois' Most Powerful and Influential Women of 2010 and 2011 by the National Diversity Council. She is a former member and past chair of the EIU College of Business Advisory Board and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from EIU in 2006. She also received an honorary degree from EIU in 2015.

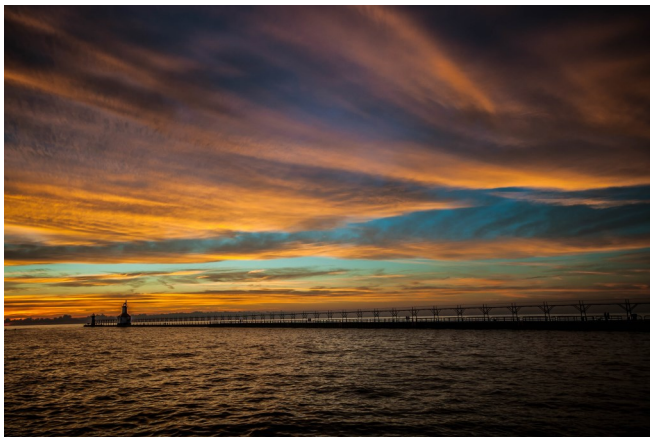
IBHE Staff News

IBHE Assistant Director **Kristin Wheeler** is graduating from **Ball State University** with a dual masters in Adult and Community Education and Executive Development for Public Service. Wheeler, an analyst in the Private Business and Vocational Schools division of Academic Affairs, joined IBHE in October 2014.

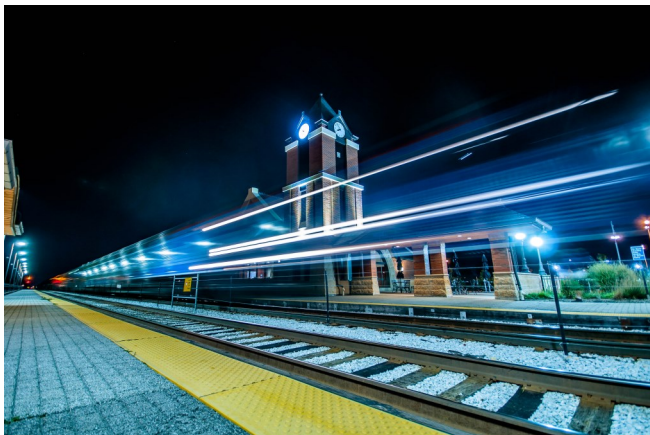
Other News

The **Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation** is seeking applicants for the ILBCF Scholarship. [This application is for students seeking an undergraduate degree.](#) Applicants should be an accepted student at an accredited institution of higher learning to include community colleges, private institutions and certified vocational training programs. ILBC Members, employees, Foundation board members, and their immediate relatives are ineligible for the scholarship program. The deadline is May 9, 2017.

IBHE Student Art Exhibition



St. Joe Sunset



Railroad Earth

Tyler Santor,
Moraine Valley
Community College



Chicago

Student Laureates

Northern Illinois
University



Rebecca Rasmussen

Franklin Park, IL
Music Education &
Chemistry/Biochem
Biological Sciences

Olivet Nazarene
University



Kaleb Miller

Canton, IL
Business

Principia
College



Annika Erickson

Petaluma, CA
Computer Science
Business
Administration

Quincy
University



Nicholas Nosbisch

Effingham, IL
Biological Sciences

Robert Morris
University



Tameka Mason

Peoria, IL
Business
Administration

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

[State Journal-Register](#): Stroke survivor, 34, grateful for state co-workers' support, May 1, 2017.

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